PEACE MAKER鐵 4 クロガネ

Nanae Chrono Presents

黒乃奈々絵

選択の刻、迫る。

激動の時代に
黎明を求め
疾走する
猛き志士達。

〝幕末新撰組異譚〟
革新の第4巻、
堂々発売。

テレビ朝日系にて
TVアニメ
「PEACE MAKER鐵」
絶賛放映中！

9784861270130

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1929979005528

雑誌53930-86
定価：本体552円＋税
マッグガーデン

BLADE COMICS

PEACE MAKER 鐵

クロガネ

4

海 選 贈 潜 長 源

黒乃奈々絵

Mag GARDEN

「PEACE MAKER 鐵」TVアニメ化記念特別企画

特製グッズ大プレゼント!!

Aコース 100名様
祝TVアニメ化記念
「PEACE MAKER 鐵」
声優さんVOICE入り
目覚まし時計：
TYPE 1
市村鉄之助(小林由美子) 他

Bコース 100名様
祝TVアニメ化記念
「PEACE MAKER 鐵」
声優さんVOICE入り
目覚まし時計：
TYPE 2
沖田総司(斎賀みつき) 他

Cコース 100名様
書籍&
コミックス表紙
テレホンカード
3枚組みセット

「TVアニメーションPEACE MAKER 鐵 スターターブック」、「PEACE MAKER 鐵2004CALENDAR BOOK」、「PEACE MAKER 鐵 江戸覚書」、コミックス「PEACE MAKER 鐵」4巻、「PEACE MAKER 鐵」大百科（仮）の表紙イラスト6点のうち3点のイラストテレホンカードが1セットになっています。入っているカードの中身はランダムな組み合わせです。ご了承下さい。

応募の締切り
2004年4月30日(金)
消印有効

応募券が入る単行本コミックス
PEACE MAKER 鐵 江戸覚書
PEACE MAKER 鐵 4巻
PEACE MAKER 鐵 大百科

※応募者全員＆色紙カードは「PEACE MAKER 鐵一血風編一」(04年1月16日発売)にだいています。

応募方法の詳細は帯折り返しを見てね

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4

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海 選 贈 潜 長 源

妖魔大戦新撰組68

赤黒く塗り潰された上空の彼方、雷鳴とも地鳴りともつかない響きが余計に恐怖を煽る。

疲労と攻撃による衝撃から瞳が崩れおれば、戦場一面に広がった黒炎が下半身に喰らいつく。しかしそんな痛みすら気にしていられないほど十一番隊に対する山崎烝―新九郎―の攻撃は激しいものだった。

「クハハハハッ！さぁどうした。もう一撃ゆくぞ!!」

「くうぅっ…ッ!!」

主に応戦しているのはもはや沖田と近藤のみだった。小ぶりでありながらも桃華丸の放つ霊撃波は凄まじく、他の隊士達はただ身を守るだけで精一杯な状態だった。それですら上方の乗り移った霊馬の動けが無ければ、刀諸共粉々に吹き飛ばされていることだろう。祠馬の眉間の皺は更に深くなっていく。

（く、そ…っ。近藤さん、総司!!　隊士共はもうもたねェ!!　少しでいい、二人でそいつを引き付けてくれ。こいつらを先に回廊まで誘導する…！）

やはり沖田の菊華は今だ沈黙を守ったままだった。新九郎の桃華丸は、今はまだ完成体ではない。恐らくはその体に憑巣したてのため、波長の調整が完璧ではないのだろう。今ならば菊華の一振りで彼を昏倒させることも可能なはず。…しかし、

（どうして答えてくれない、菊華…!?）

沖田がいくら霊力を注ぎ込んでも、力はいっこうに反応を返さないのである。

いや正確に言えばいつも通り沖田を守る反応は返す。しかし、咲かせよう"とする力は全く返してこないのだ。わずかに灯す光とくぐもった共鳴が、まるで泣いているかのような感触を沖田の手に伝えてくる。

（…君を咲かせる事で、私の命が削られるのを恐れているの…？）

共鳴が答える様に強くなる。だがこの状態を菊華無しで打破するには、敵はあまりに強力過ぎた。

「ククク…よくぞ持ちこたえた。八雄を倒しただけのことはある。…がしかし」

グォォン、という音と共に桃華丸の黒炎が勢いを増した。漆黒の刀身の内部が、熱を加えられたかの様に赤々と浮かび上がる。

「この体の調整ももはや十分。アリを突付くのも飽きてきた。そろそろ害虫駆除といかせてもら

次に続く

BLADE COMICS

PEACE MAKER 鐵 クロガネ 4

黒乃奈々絵

Mag GARDEN

おうか」

島々と掲げる桃華丸から黒い花びらが渦を巻いて姿を現した。あたかも台風の目の様に、刀身を軸に風と血が絡みつき天に向かって巻き上がる。

桃華丸が叫く：：

「いけない!! 皆退ひ…！」

「遅いわぁァ!!」

新九郎が十一番隊に向け刀を振り下ろそうとしたその時。ゴゴゴ…という地鳴りと共に、十一番隊の周囲を取り囲む様に大地がヒビ割れた。突然の事に固まっている一同を地割れは飲み込み、音をたてて崩れ始める。

「のわあぁあっ!? な、なんじゃあコレは…！」

（近藤さん、総司!! とにかく固まれ、下に落ちるぞ…!!）

ゴガガガン…!! ぽっかりと黒い口を開け、陥没した大地はあっという間に新撰組十一番隊を飲み込んでしまった。土煙の舞う中、咲きそびれた桃華丸を肩に担いだ新九郎のみが残された。

「…フン、つまらぬ茶々をいれよるのう」

いや、正確にはもう一人いる。風がおさまり徐々に視界が開けてくれば、陥没した円形の穴を挟んだ向こうに一人の男が佇んでいる。見覚えのある風貌。ゆったりと開かれた口からは、抑揚の無い声が出てきた。

「…アリ地獄」を模してみたのですが…。お気に召さなかったご様子ですな…。」

「その「地獄」からまんまと帰りせしめた男が目の前に居ってはな…。」

未だ黒い台風を纏う桃華丸を労めながら、新九郎は新撰組を逃がしたその男を見据える。

「殺虫剤の効かぬ虫は好かん。…貴様はどうだ？ 斎藤一。」

妖魔大戦新撰組68

PEACE MAKER 鐵

Nagae Chrono Presents

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黒乃奈々絵

毎月コミックブレイド

COMIC BLADE

毎月30日発売

Nagae Chrono Presents

PEACE MAKER 鐵

4

黒乃奈々絵

CHAPTER 16
ORIGIN

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海選贈潜長源

TRANSLATION: SANADA OF HANA-MI.NET
TYPESETTING: SHIPPOTHEKIT

BWAHA HAHA!! COME ON, GROW UP !!

Y... YOU GUYS NEVER GIVE UP, DO YA?

PHN

...AH !?

MY ORYOU-CHAN DX-2 ...!?

SHIT !!

THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN!!

AHAHA HAHA!! WE'VE GOT YOU NOW!!!

YOU'VE BEEN WALKING ABOUT BOLDY ALL DAY!

BUT TODAY IS THE DAY THAT YOU ACCEPT DEFEAT!!

OOO

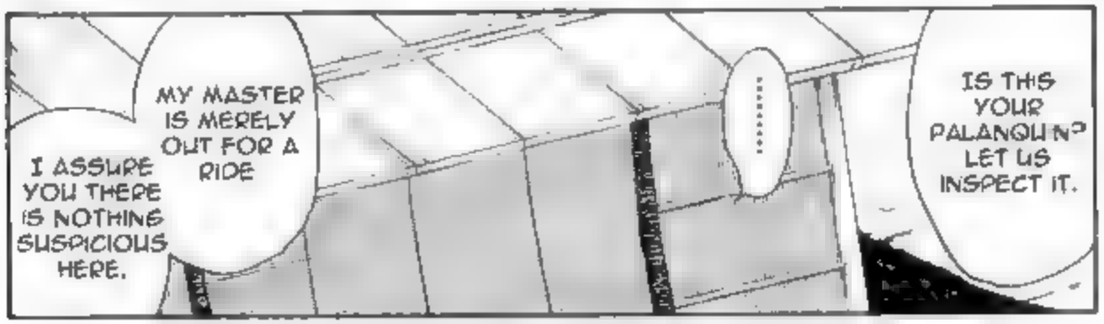
SAKAMOTO RYOUMAAA !!!

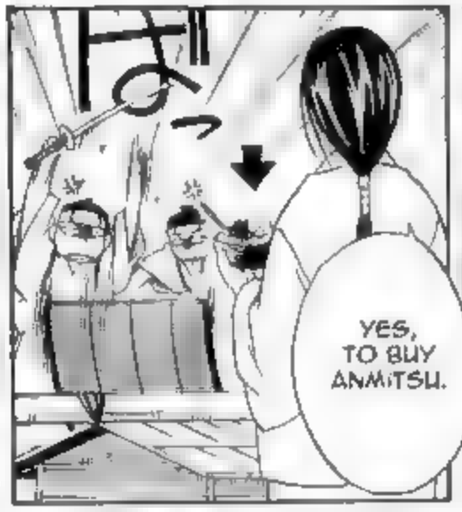
HH!!

AREN'T YOU THE SAME GUYS WHO WERE CHASING ME YESTERDAY, AND THE DAY BEFORE THAT!!?

AT LEAST I'M USING MY LEGS LIKE A REAL MAN!!

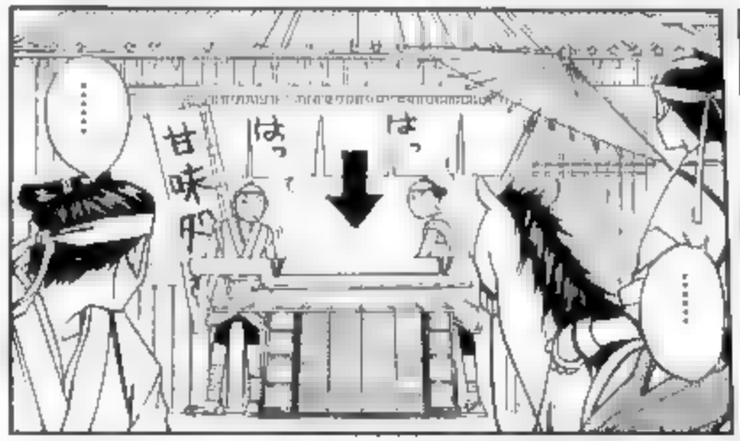
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?





ANMITSU: JELLY CUBES, FRUIT, AND SWEET BEAN PASTE.

SIGN ON SHOP: "CANDY STORE"



※この物語は、史実に基づくフィクションです

KATSU KAISHUU: A WELL-KNOWN MILITARY AND POLITICAL FIGURE, PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF THE BAKUMATSU. HE WAS A LOYAL ADVISOR TO THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE BUT ALSO SYMPATHISED WITH THE REBELS. HE WAS VERY PEACEFUL AND WANTED TO AVOID CIVIL WAR.

HAHAHAHA NAH, I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT RUNNING AWAY!
HAHA
YOU RUN ABOUT SO CARELESSLY
AS ALWAYS, YOU STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB.

NOT AT ALL, KATSU-SENSEI!!!
THIS IS ONE OF ICHIMURA'S STUPID IDEAS, ISN'T IT?
NO LIES, NO TRICKS, JUST A MEETING OF OUR SOULS!
FIRST I JUST WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIM!!
SO YOU INTEND TO CONTACT SAIGO TAKAMORI ON YOUR OWN, THEN? IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE THINKING ?
AND YET YOU CAN'T EVEN SEND A SIMPLE LETTER

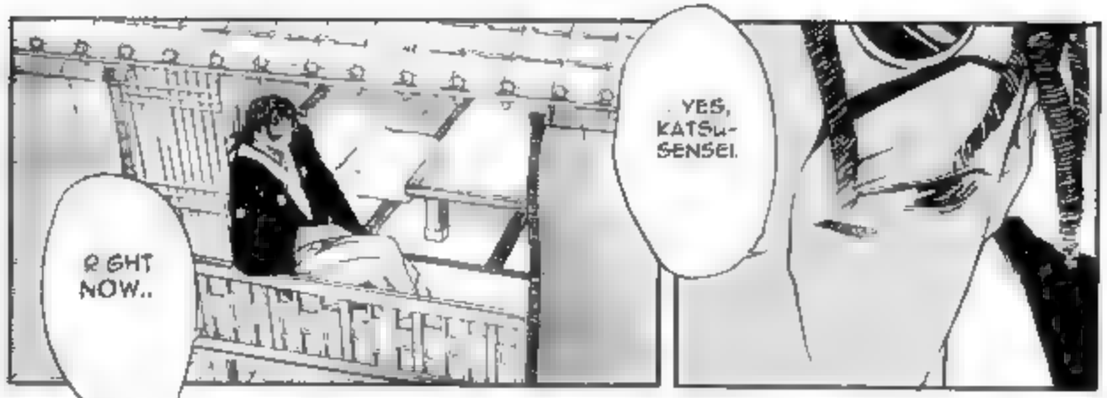
F...
SO WE'RE USING AN ORDINARY PALANQUIN
WE'RE ACTING AS BODYGUARDS TO ESCORT OUR MASTER TO EDO AS THERE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE
甘味処
WELL, THEY DO SAY THE CAPITAL IS A DANGEROUS PLACE, DON'T THEY?
.....

SOMEHOW THAT KID EVEN MADE IT INTO THE SHINSENGUMI!
BOTH OF THEM, ACTUALLY
WHAT!?
THE KID VOLUNTEERED FOR THE SHINSENGUMI TO AVENGE HIS DAD, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
YEAH, I CHECKED UP ON THEM ALREADY

THEN THEY MUST THINK
THAT IT WAS OUR PEOPLE WHO DID IT
.....

IF WE CAN JUST TAKE CARE OF SETTING UP THE RECONCILIATION, THEN IT WON'T BE A BIG DEAL.
THEY WON'T MAKE IT IN THE SHINSENGUMI.
COME ON, IT'S STILL OKAY

LOOK AT YOU, KATSU-SENSEI. YOU'RE A SHOGUNATE OFFICIAL.
IF YOU CAN FOOL EVERYONE, THEN HOW CAN YOU GIVE UP ON THEM SO EASILY?
..DON'T BE AN IDIOT


YES, KATSU-SENSEI.
RIGHT NOW..

THE PEACE-MAKER S SONS ARE IN THIS CITY.
.....!

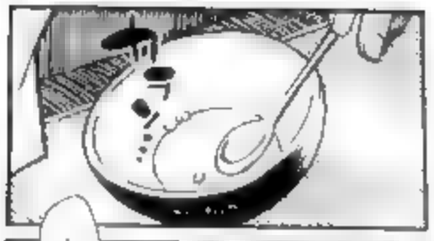
KATSU: I WONDER IF THEY'RE ALRIGHT
無事だったか...
.....
IMPOSSIBLE
THAT BRAT IS HERE ..?
YES.
..DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO
THESE TIMES ARE ENOUGH TO MAKE ANYONE WORRY.
OH NO!! COME ON, AREN'T YOU HAPPY!?

AOTANI, WHY DON'T YOU GO ROLL OUT SOME FUTONS?
YES, SIR

...DAMN IT
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR THE KIDS..

.....

TEXT IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS
五年前


.....

.....

?

HE NEVER WANTED SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THOSE KIDS..
..ICHIMURA WAS A GOOD FATHER
BUT NOBODY HAS EVER TOLD THOSE KIDS THE TRUTH

AND WE CAN'T JUST BRING THEM INTO THIS NOW
.....

.....
?
RYOUMA -SAN?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ?

WE WENT THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE OF REACHING OUT TO YOU PEOPLE AND YOU TALK TO US LIKE THAT?

HEY NOW, TALK ENGLISH, JAP!

YOU WERE JUST MAKING FUN OF MY HAIRSTYLE, WEREN'T YOU, YOU AMERICAN!?

YOU SURE ARE BOLD FOR SOMEONE WHO'S BARELY ABOVE A COMMON RUFFIAN!!

HEY!! WHAT'S GOING ON!?

PLEASE WAIT, KATSU -SAN!

WE'VE BEEN SO NICE TO JAPAN AND YOU YELLOW MONKEYS CAN'T EVEN SHOW US SOME RESPECT?

BASTARD!! WHAT'S SO FUNNY!?

HAHAHA

A SPEC-IALIST?

DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF

WE BROUGHT ALONG A SPECIALIST IN THESE MATTERS.

IT WAS 1860, AND ON THE PRETEXT OF GUARDING THE DELEGATION THAT OPPOSED THE JAPAN-AMERICA TRADE AGREEMENT...

一八六〇年、日米修好通商条約に対しての使節団護衛を名目に

WE, AS NAVAL INSPECTORS, TOOK THE STEAMSHIP "KANRINMARU" TO SAN FRANCISCO

我々は海外視察の為、蒸気船"咸臨丸"を駆りサンフランシスコを目指した

KATSU -SAN!!

WE'LL BE COMING INTO PORT SOON

HOW'S YOUR SEASICK-NESS?

AH. JOHN-SAN.

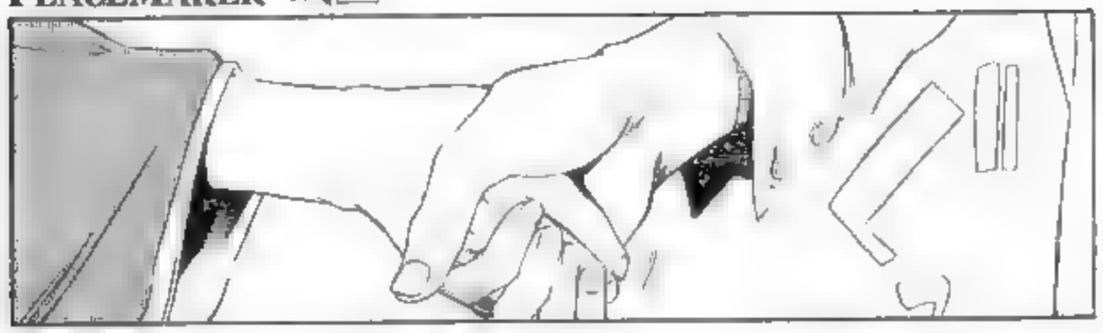
OH..

I CAN SEE THE HARBOR FROM HERE!

HAHAHA!! IT'S ALRIGHT, YOU CAN CALL ME "MANJIROU" AFTER ALL, I'M JAPANESE NOW!!

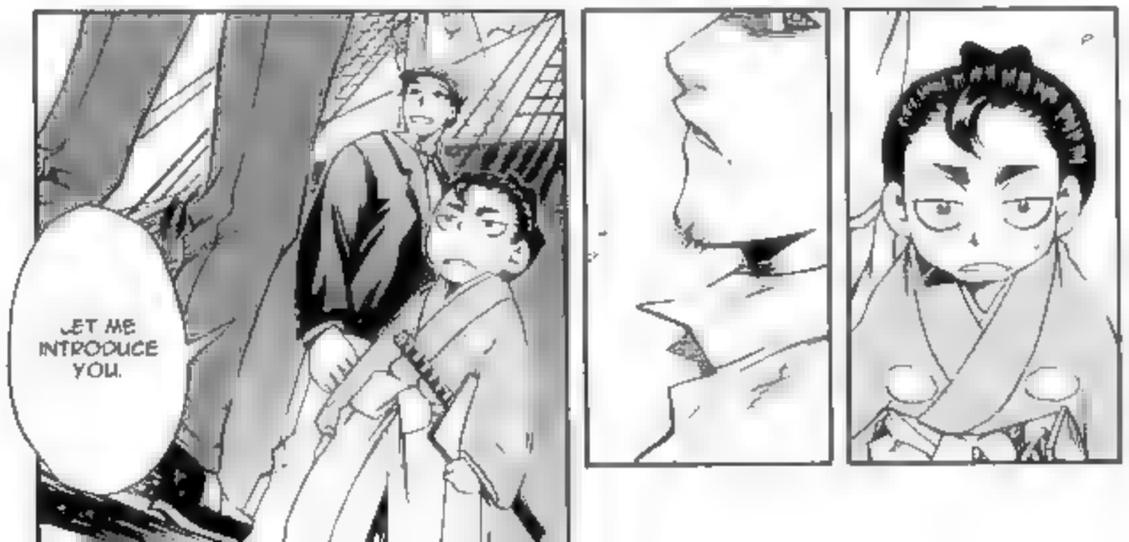
!?

YOU BASTARD!!



ELEVEN YEARS AGO WE WERE IN NAGASAK.
WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN THIS COUNTRY FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS NOW
HE AND I ARE IN THE SAME SITUATION.
HAHA

HE DOESN'T JUST TRANSLATE THE OPPOSING OPINIONS, HE WORKS OUT THE PROBLEM.
WELL, MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE HAS SUCH A RARE GIFT AT SETTLING DISAGREEMENTS
HE MAKES LEARNING ENGLISH LOOK EASY


LET ME INTRODUCE YOU.

ENDOU-SAN, YOU QUIET DOWN TOO.
EXCUSE ME, MISTER!

NOW WHY DON'T YOU JUST APOLOGISE?
SOMETIMES THE UNINTENDED MEANING OF OUR WORDS CAN MAKE OTHERS UNCOMFORTABLE

WHY DON'T YOU HELP HIM WITH THE LUGGAGE?
HE'S JUST TRYING TO WELCOME YOU TO HIS COUNTRY

SEE, THAT'S COMMUNI-CATION!
NOW SHAKE HANDS!

AH

AH

MMM

ICHIMURA RYUUNOSUKE

WE CALL HIM "PEACEMAKER ICHIMURA."

ばち☆ーん。

THEN HOW ABOUT A SHOOTING GAME HERE ON THE ROOF?

WHAT, YOU DON'T WANNA PLAY TAG?

I'M PRETTY GOOD AT THIS GAME, TOO

...YOU.

WHAT THE...!?

勝先生への刺客じゃな…

IT CAN'T BE AN ASSASSIN COMING FOR KATSU-SENSE

……

LET'S GO KICK SOME ASS

WILL THIS COVER THE ADVANCE PAYMENT...

FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF KATSU KAISHUU?

AREN'T YOU AFRAID I'LL TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN?

OR THAT I'LL GIVE YOUR NAME IF I'M ARRESTED?

.....

HEHE..

I DOUBT IT.

YOU SAY THAT EVERY TIME.

AND I KNOW YOU WON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME.

ONE IS ENOUGH.

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE I'LL GET A CLEAN HIT.

BLONDE GIRL...!

CHAPTER 17
COMMANDER

YOU ARE A LOYAL SHINOBI.
WHATEVER, I'LL TAKE THE ASSASSI-NATION JOB.
HEH, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO DIFFICULT.
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH I'VE BECOME YOUR FAVOR TE SHINOBI.
WILL IT BE ENOUGH...?
BUT EVEN IF HE'S GONE

HEY
BECAUSE YOU'RE A SPY !!
WHY?

IT REALLY IS YOU!!
BLUE EYES... HOW PRETTY-!

COME ON!
QUIT IT! LET ME GO!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHY I'M HERE?

死ぬかァ…
AM I GOING TO DIE?
あ――あ
AH
YOU WIN.
……
モワ
モワ
WH.. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT BLONDE WOMAN?
SHE'S A NEW RECRUIT!
BLONDE GIRL!
WHAT?
は？
WHAT?
は？

OH MY ..
よいしょ
WHAT IS IT?
IT SUDDENLY GOT SO QUIET..
MAYBE RYOUMA -SAN KILLED THE INTRUDER.?
コロコロ
RYOUMA ..
……
AHHH!!

BUT... WHY?

IT FEELS GOOD TO BE BY THE SEA!!

YEAH!!

THE SETO INLAND SEA SO TRANQUIL AND BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK!!

HIROSHIMA SURE IS NICE, TOO!!

.....

...WHAT?

WHAT?

?

LET'S...

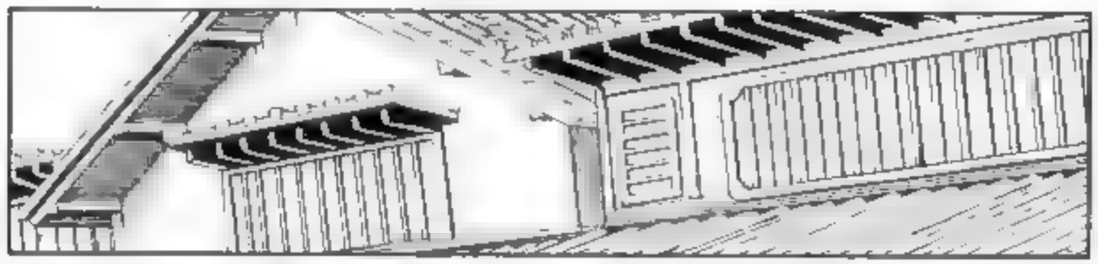
SEE THE WORLD TOGETHER!!

"CLOP"
"CLOP"
AHH HE'S JUST LOOKING FOR A LITTLE TIME OFF.
SHOULDN'T WE STOP ITOU -DONO..?
IS THIS ALRIGHT WITH YOU?
I GET THE FEELING THAT MAN IS TRYING TO DESTROY THE SHINSENGUMI
HE'S ASKING TOO MUCH..

IN THE HUNT FOR CHOUSHUU RADICALS, THEY TRAVELLED TO HIROSHIMA. AFTERWARDS, THEY VISITED IWAKUNI.
IN THE FIRST MONTH OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE KEIOU ERA (1865), KONDOU AND ITOU WENT ON BEHALF OF THE SHINSENGUMI TO ENSURE THE CONTROL OF THE CHOUSHUU.

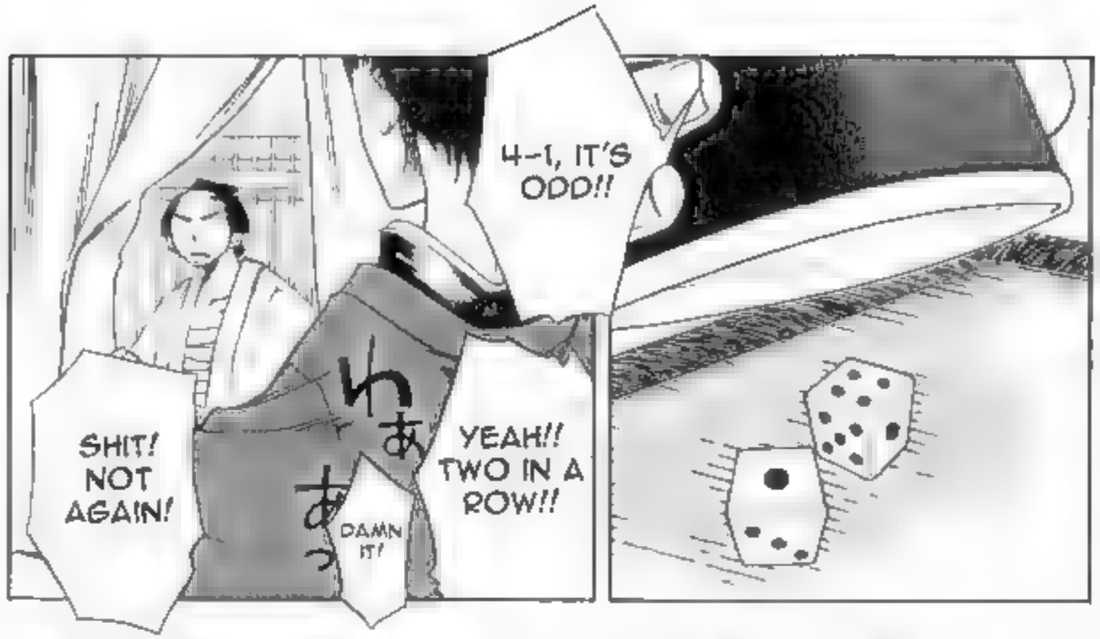
WAHAHA, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT - ISN'T IT TIME YOU WENT OUT ON YOUR OWN?
WHEN YOU RETURN, YOU'LL BE A FULL-FLEDGED DOCTOR!!
DID YOU GET THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES YOU NEEDED? SO, YAMAZAKI-KUN, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
..THEY MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. FORGIVE ME
YES.
BY THE TIME THEY RETURNED TO KYOTO, A YEAR HAD PASSED

DOCTOR: NOW GET BACK TO THE BARRACKS! YOU'VE PASSED!



35 [NOTE: THEY'RE PLAYING CHOU-HAN, A DICE GAME - BASICALLY PEOPLE PLACE BETS ON WHETHER THE DICE WILL COME UP ODD OR EVEN. THE DEALER PLAYS IN HIS UNDERWEAR TO PREVENT CHEATING. YAKUZA GAMBLE ON THIS GAME.]

……
……
YES, SIR
MAY I ..
HAVE A BIT OF TOBACCO?
ス——————……
HM ——……
……
I'M IN


4-1, IT'S ODD!!
SHIT! NOT AGAIN!
DAMN IT!
YEAH!! TWO IN A ROW!!

CHOUSHUU MEN ALWAYS BET "EVEN!"
BECAUSE IT'S TRADIT-ION!!
WELL, WHY DO YOU KEEP BETTING ON "EVEN?"

AND IF I AM?
IF I AM INSULTING SATSUMA..?
!?
THEN THE SHOGUNATE MUST BE BETTING TO WIN, THEN?
HEY ..
YOU'RE INSULTING SATSUMA..

BUT THERE'S NO WAY THOSE TWO CAN TALK TO EACHOTHER.

BUT IF WE HAD BOTH KATSURA AND SAIGOU.*1

IT REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE

TRAPPED BY THEIR OWN EGOS SATSUMA AND CHOUSHUU ARE LIKE THE PROVERBIAL DOG AND MONKEY WHO CONSTANTLY BICKER

AND A UNITED CHOUSHUU.

THAT COULD BE AN INTERESTING GAMBLE!

EVEN!!

ODD!

WHAT ABOUT SATSUMA?

EVEN!

MM? WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE SAYING JUST NOW?

ODD!

BUT DON'T YOU THINK THE SATSUMA ARE MOVING TOO SLOWLY?

A SHOGUNATE RETAINER COMING DOWN HERE

ODD!

I GUESS I SHOULD START PRAYING

AH!! DAMN IT, I'M OUT...

HE WANTS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH SAIGOU FROM SATSUMA.

I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT KATSURA-SAN, THE DESERTEE FROM TOSA HE THINKS SO TOO

YEAH YOU BETTER NOT BE TALKING ABOUT SATSUMA.

.....

I DON'T WANT A FIGHT IN MY SHOP!

SO WHAT..

WAH!! NO WAY.. THAT HIKAGAMI GUY MOVED.

.....

A DECISIVE VICTORY!!

THAT'S SO LIKE YOU, SENSE!!

SNAKE EYES, IT'S EVEN!!

FUFU FU

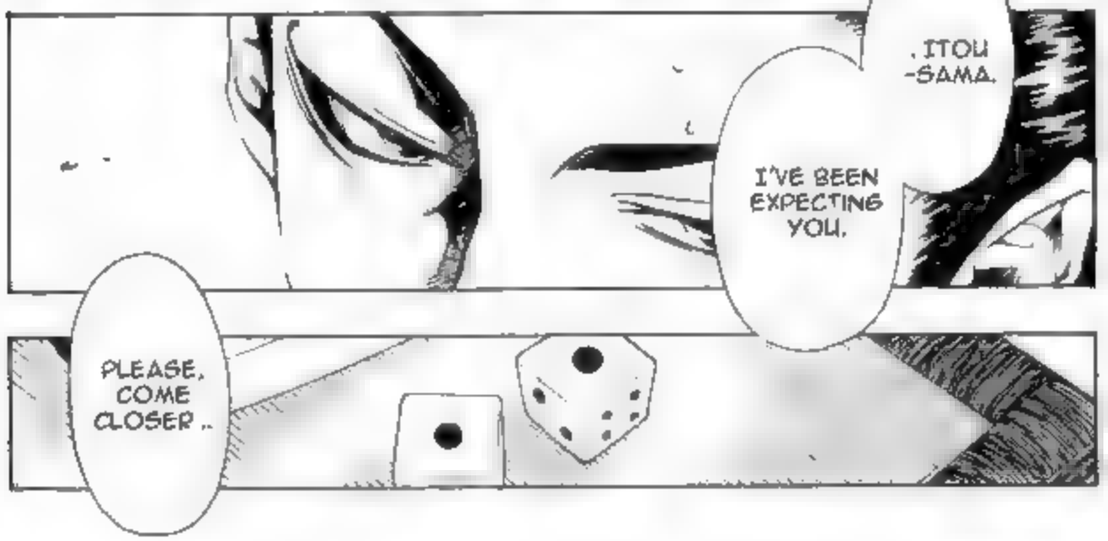
IT HAS TO BE A TRICK!!

JUST WHEN I GIVE UP, YOU GO AND WIN!

HEY!! WHAT'S GOING ON!!

AND WITH "EVEN !!?"

...THAT'S AMAZING! HE WON SO MUCH IN JUST ONE ROUND!


.ITOU -SAMA.
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
PLEASE, COME CLOSER..

"SWI -SH"
"SWI -SH"
"SWI -SH"
"SWI -SH"

ス…
MAS-TER
MAS-TER..
……

MAS-TER..

..I WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE TO REVEAL YOUR BACKGROUND TO OUR CHOUSHUU FRIENDS.

THERE WAS NO NEED TO BE SO RUDE.

WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME SO SUDDENLY. ?

.WELL?

..IT IS ONLY BY LUCK THAT I HAVE THE HONOR OF SPEAKING TO YOU.

I'D LIKE TO CONTINUE OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION.

10分

THAT HAS BROUGHT US TOGE-THER.

LUCK! IT'S LUCK..!

AH,

WHAT IS THIS "LUCK" YOU SPEAK OF?

WHY BRING ME HERE?

SO YOU BROUGHT ME TO THIS SHOP?

YOU COULD EVEN SAY IT WAS FATE.

PERHAPS FATE MAKES THIS SIGNIFICANT.

A DESTINED MEETING BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE WHO SHARE CERTAIN COMMON INTERESTS

.....!

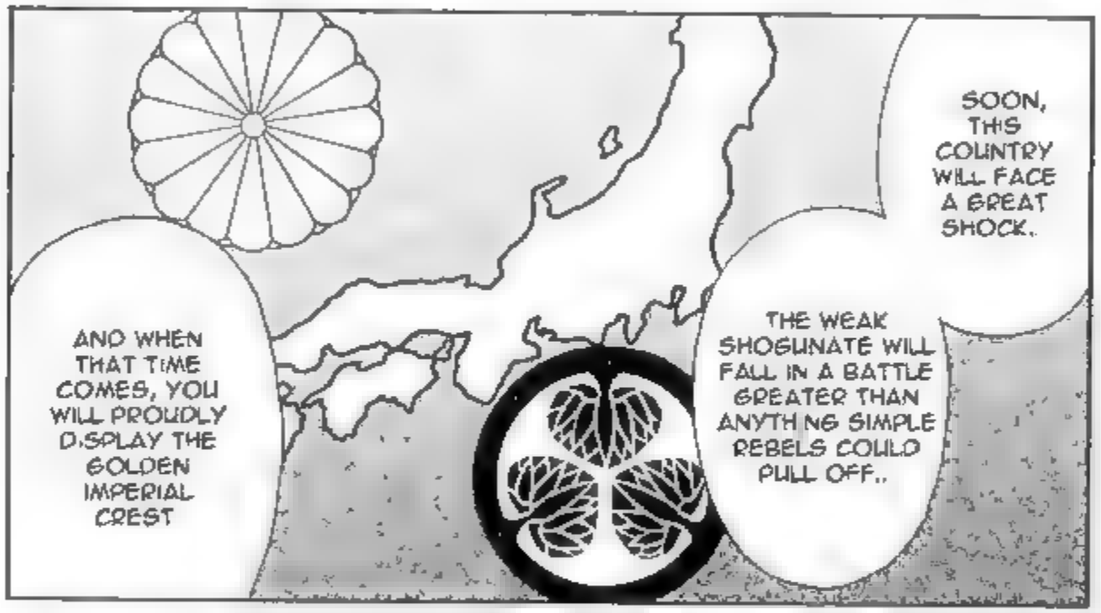
HEH.

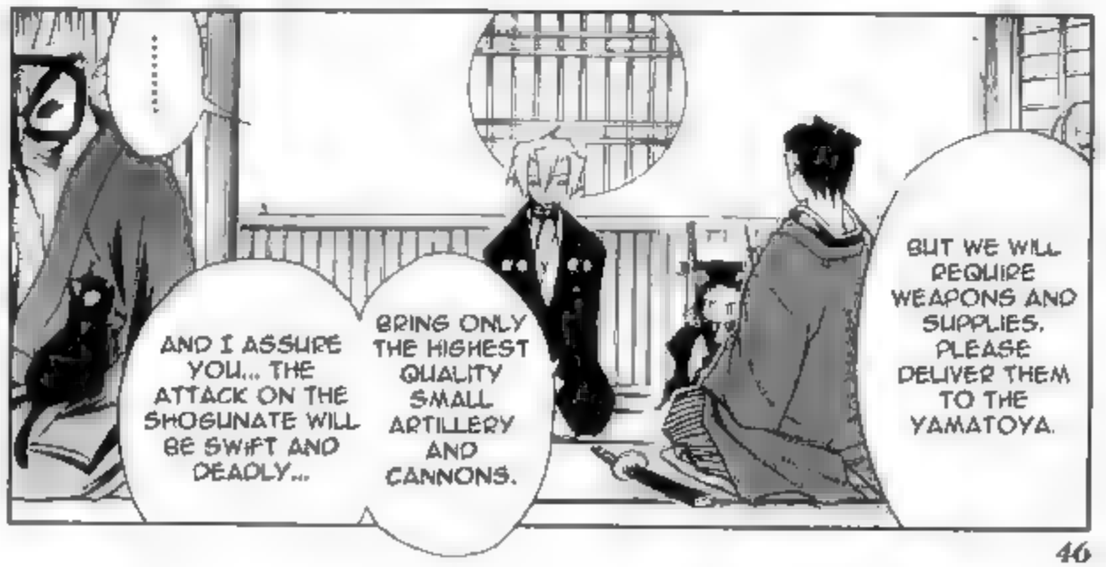
WELL, WELL...

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE YOU COULD BE SO SLY.

YOU'RE SUCH A PRETTY YOUNG THING..

SO... THIS "YAMATOYA" S A MONEY LAUNDERING BUSINESS ...
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?


SOON, THIS COUNTRY WILL FACE A GREAT SHOCK.
THE WEAK SHOGUNATE WILL FALL IN A BATTLE GREATER THAN ANYTH NG SIMPLE REBELS COULD PULL OFF..
AND WHEN THAT TIME COMES, YOU WILL PROUDLY D.SPLAY THE GOLDEN IMPERIAL CREST


.....
BUT WE WILL REQUIRE WEAPONS AND SUPPLIES. PLEASE DELIVER THEM TO THE YAMATOYA.
BRING ONLY THE HIGHEST QUALITY SMALL ARTILLERY AND CANNONS.
AND I ASSURE YOU... THE ATTACK ON THE SHOGUNATE WILL BE SWIFT AND DEADLY...

FU FU
VERY WELL.

I TRUST OUR MEET NG HAS BEEN MUTUALLY PROFITABLE, YAMATOYA -SAN?
. THAT WAS NOT WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO ASK YOU

AS LONG AS IT CANNOT HARM ME.
THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO WHAT I AM WILLING TO DO

NATSUKI, TSUMORI.
BRING IT TO ME .

I'D LIKE..

FOR YOU TO REMAIN CLOSE TO THE SHINSENGUMI.

VERY CLOSE.

PLEASE TAKE IT.

ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS HEAVY...

PLEASE DON'T REMOVE THE COLLAR.

AH.

WHAT A CUTE LITTLE KITTEN...

I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT OUR BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

MY TRUE REQUEST.

...YES.

..ITOU -SAMA.

19TH MONTH OF THE 1ST YEAR OF KEIOU (1865).

I JUST CAN'T STOP THE SMOKE!
DAMN IT.
HEY, SOUJI, YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT IN THIS COLD.
DON'T THEY TASTE BETTER THAT WAY?
IF YOU COOK, THEY'LL BE BURNT BLACK ON BOTH SIDES!!
NO WAY!
I COULD DO THAT!

CHAPTER 18
DORMANT

TIME PASSES EVER SO SLOWLY.
ALL APPEARS PEACEFUL AND QUIET...
PEOPLE ARE CHANGING ...
CONSUMED BY A VAGUE SENSE OF UNEASI-NESS.
THE WINTER OF 1865 IS COMING TO AN END...

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HE CRIES OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

HIJIKATA-SAN IS A MEANIE!

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! YOU MADE TETSU-KUN CRY!

THE INK IS DRYING UP!! COME ON, GET TO WORK!

HEY..

QUITTING ALREADY?

IS THAT YOUR LAST ONE?

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.

...THE SECOND YEAR OF KEIOU.

THE FIRST DAY OF THE NEW YEAR.

BOR-ING.

AHHH

CAN'T YOU WRITE YOUR OWN NEW YEAR'S CARDS, HIJIKATA -SAN?

I'VE BEEN WRITING FOR TWO OR THREE PAGES NOW!

MOVE YOUR HANDS, NOT YOUR MOUTH! THESE HAVE TO BE FINISHED BY TODAY!

SHUT UP! I'M ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE KONDOU -SAN ASKED ME TO.

ABSOLUTELY NOT. YOUR HANDWRITING IS TERRIBLE.

UM.. FUKUTAICHO, IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I CAN HELP WRITE TOO!

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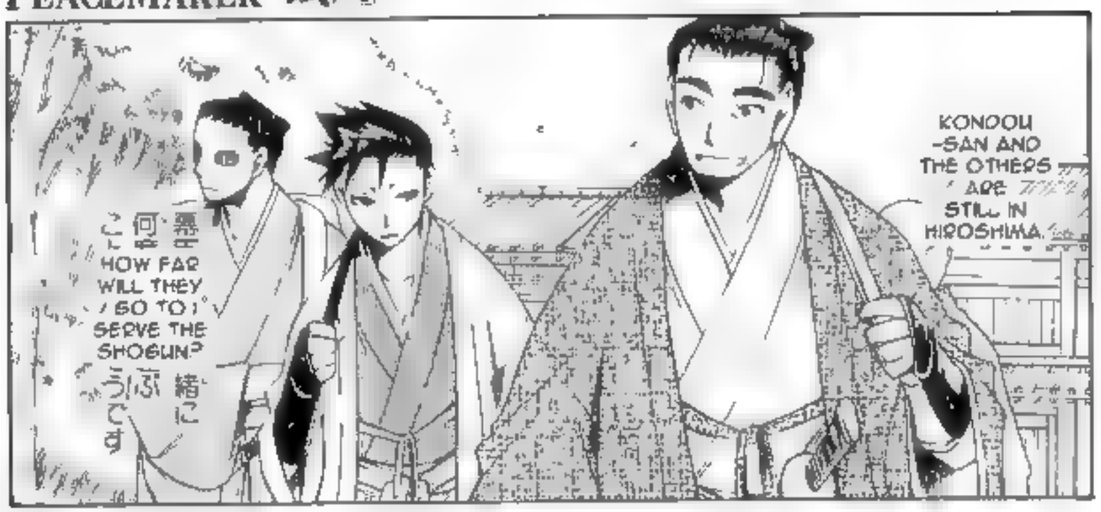

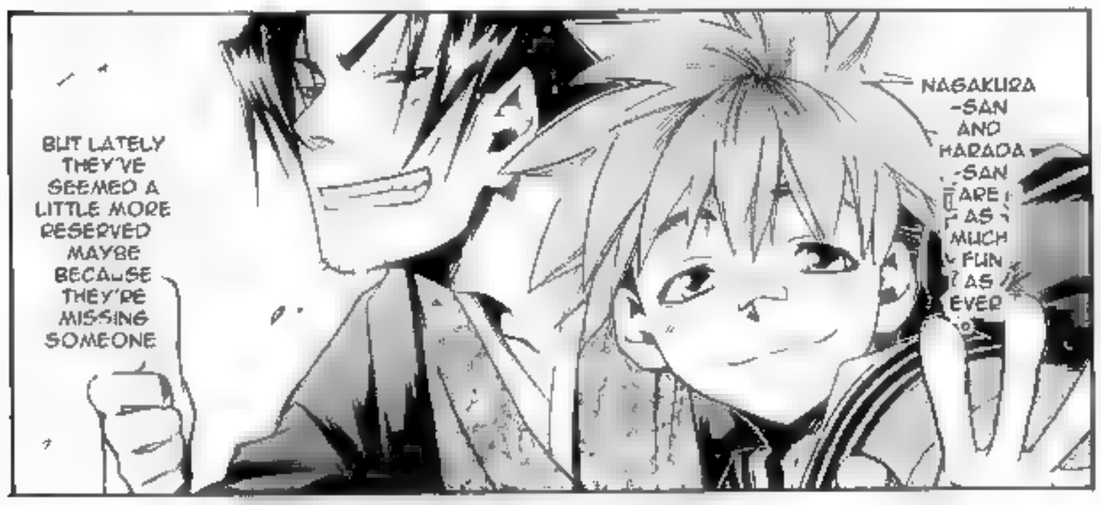
BUT LATELY THEY'VE SEEMED A LITTLE MORE RESERVED MAYBE BECAUSE THEY'RE MISSING SOMEONE
NAGAKURA -SAN AND HARADA -SAN ARE AS MUCH FUN AS EVER

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THAT'S SAKAMOTO -DONO FOR YOU!

HE MIGHT REVEAL THAT YOU AND I ARE HIDING OUT IN KYOTO..

BUT WITH RESPECT, KATSURA -SENSEI, IF SAKAMOTO IS EVER ARRESTED..

ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD OF THE POLICE..

THA.

BUT THE TOUDOU-SAN WHO USED TO GRUMBLE ABOUT THAT KIND OF WORK IS NOW SO QUIET AND UNRESPONSIVE...

WITH THE SHOGUN IN KYOTO, WE'RE ALL ACTING AS BODYGUARDS

.....

.. I'M NO GOOD AT WRITING.

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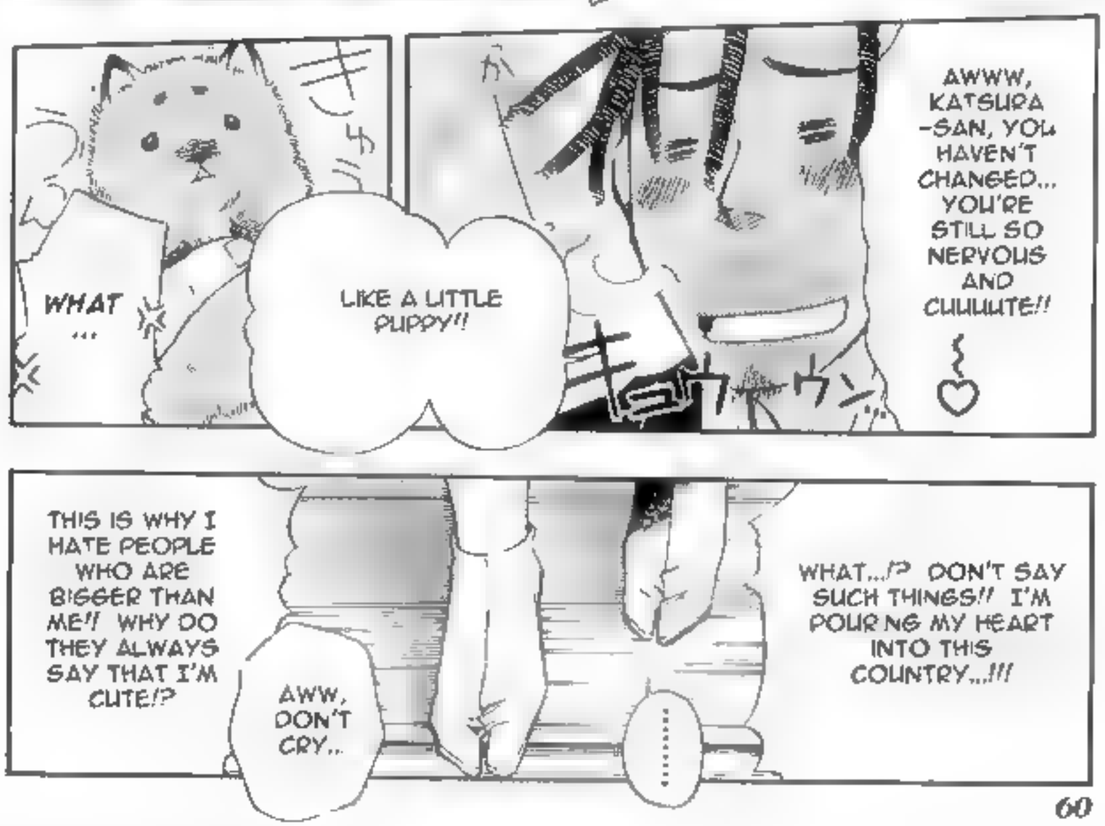
KATSURA -SAN!! KATSURA -SAN, SHE'S JUST A FRIEND OF MINE!! CALM DOWN!!
TO THE SECRET ESCAPE PASSAGE..!!!
.....
HE LOOKS LIKE A LITTLE KID.
IF SAIGOU SEES HIM, THAT'S IT. IT'S OVER
SHE'S A 3RD-GENERATION KID WHO RETURNED TO JAPAN
NOT QUITE, KATSURA -SAN!
THEN.. YOU..
IS SHE AN AMERICAN !?


WHAT ...
LIKE A LITTLE PUPPY!!
AWWW, KATSURA -SAN, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED... YOU'RE STILL SO NERVOUS AND CUUUUTE!!
THIS IS WHY I HATE PEOPLE WHO ARE BIGGER THAN ME!! WHY DO THEY ALWAYS SAY THAT I'M CUTE!?
AWW, DON'T CRY..
WHAT...!? DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS!! I'M POURING MY HEART INTO THIS COUNTRY...!!!

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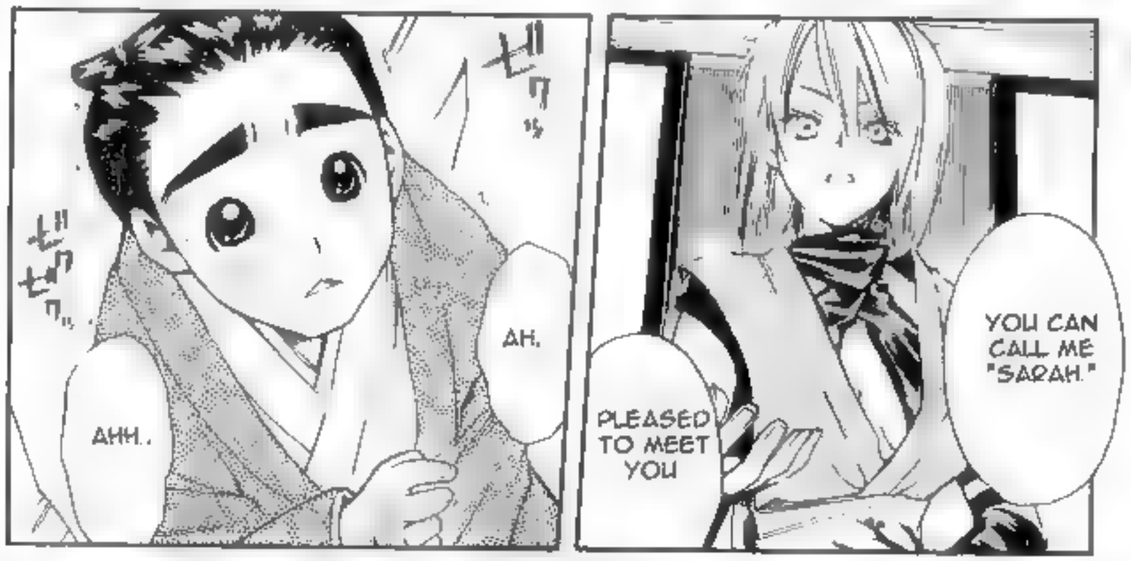
I'M NOT A PUPPY! I'M A PATRIOT !!!
HE'S LIKE A POOR LITTLE STRAY PUPPY LEFT UNDER A BRIDGE, HOPING FOR A KIND PERSON TO TAKE HIM HOME!!
"FREE TO GOOD HOME"
FOR THE SAKE OF HIS COUNTRY, HE'S COME ALONE INTO ENEMY TO TERRITORY.. CONTINUE HIS INFORMATION GATHERING, HE MUST RELY ON THE KINDNESS OF OTHERS AS HE FLEES FROM THE AUTHOR ITES

AH.. YES..
S, SENSEI !!
IT'S DANGEROUS TO SPEAK SO LOUDLY!!
TH... THAT'S NOT RIGHT!! I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, IKUMATSU!!
HE'S SO CUTE THAT YOU JUST WANT TO LURE HIM OUT, WITH SOME FOOD, CATCH HIM, AND TAKE HIM HOME TO CUDDLE!

I MEAN, GIVEN THE WAY I LOOK YOU REALLY CAN'T BLAME ME FOR WORRYING ABOUT BEING SEEN..
AH... ARE YOU SURE THERE AREN'T ANY SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE NEARBY?

SO I GUESS THAT MAKES ME YOUR BODYGUARD TOO, WHILE YOU'RE IN KYOTO.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY MY CHOICE, BUT FOR NOW I'M WORKING AS HIS BODYGUARD
.....HM



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.....
NO, THAT WON'T DO...
THIS MEETING IS GOING TO CHANGE THIS COUNTRY'S FUTURE.
I WANT TO THANK KATSURA -SAN AGA.N.
FOR EVEN ASSOCIATING WITH A RONIN LIKE ME.

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I'M SAKAMOTO RYOUMA, THE PEACEMAKER

バ…カ!

命懸け!! AND I'LL RISK MY LIFE FOR A SATSUMA-CHOUSHUU ALLIANCE!!

AA AA

...CAN WE STOP THIS NOW?

YOU DON'T KNOW HIM, SO YOU CAN'T SAY HE'S A COWARD OR A DESERTER.

IF YOU REALLY KNEW HIM, YOU'D SEE THAT KATSURA -SAN IS TOTALLY DEVOTED TO HIS CAUSE!

HONESTLY, IT'S BEST TO STAY UNDER-GROUND.

BUT THIS REALLY ISN'T THE BEST PLACE TO TALK. THERE'S NOT MUCH SECURITY, SO ANYBODY COULD SNEAK IN.

HE GETS A LOT OF DIS-RESPECT.

MAYBE I'M JUST A DECOY.

I'M NOT ONE OF THE REALLY IMPORTANT PEOPLE.

BUT I'M NOT IN KYOTO BECAUSE I'M REALLY AIDING THE SATSUMA RESISTANCE.

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IT'S THE 8TH UNIT.

THIS ISN'T GOOD.

I GUESS ALL WE CAN DO IS STAY HERE AND HOPE THEY GO AWAY..

..THEN T'S HOPE-LESS.

THAT WON'T WORK

THEY'LL PROBABLY STAY IN THAT BOATHOUSE ALL NIGHT, INSPECTING EVERY CORNER OF THIS AREA

THERE'S A MAN WHO KNOWS OUR FACES

THEY'LL RECOGNISE RYOUMA AND ME

WE HAVE INTRUDERS ..

..THERE'S ONE SNAG.

. YOUR BOAT IS READY, SIR.

AH, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

.. THEY WERE PROBABLY HIDING IN THE BOATHOUSE NEXT DOOR...

THE SHINSEN-GUMI...!?

AND I THOUGHT WE WERE ALONE...

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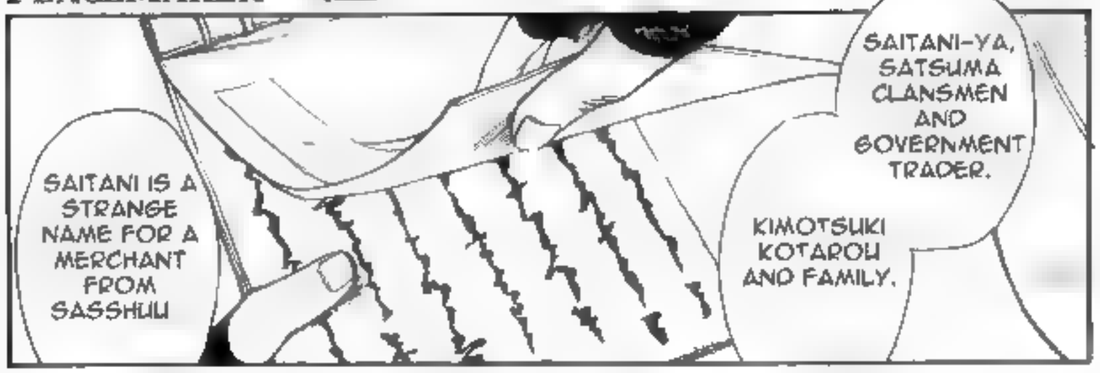
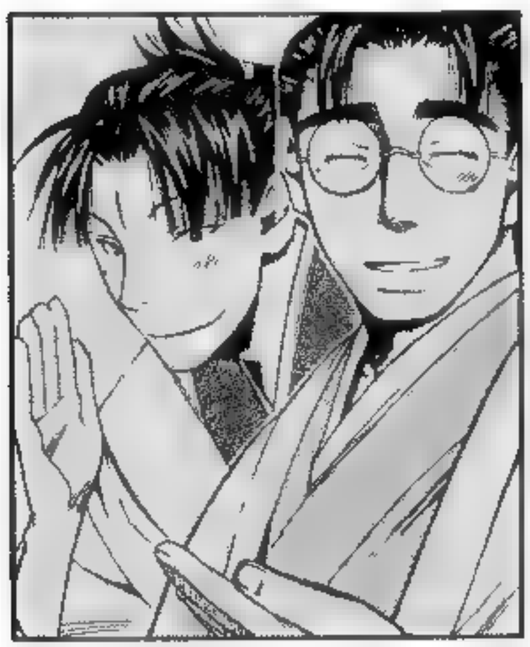

SAITANI IS A STRANGE NAME FOR A MERCHANT FROM SASSHUU
SAITANI-YA, SATSUMA CLANSMEN AND GOVERNMENT TRADER.
KIMOTSUKI KOTAROU AND FAMILY.

FANTASTIC.
YOU'RE PERFECT, KATSURA -SAN !
THOSE WERE A PRESENT FROM DADDY!! I WAS VISITING HIM IN KYOTO...
AND WHOSE KATANA ARE THESE?



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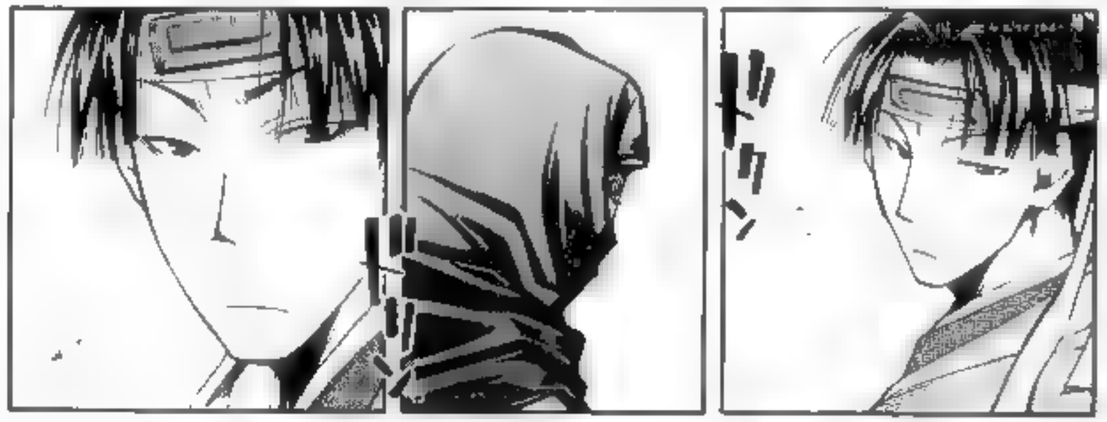

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HEY, WE'RE BOTH STUDENTS OF THE HOKUSHIN ITTOU SWORD SCHOOL. KINDA MAKES US BROTHERS, HUH?
HOW ABOUT WE JUST PRETEND THIS NEVER HAPPENED?

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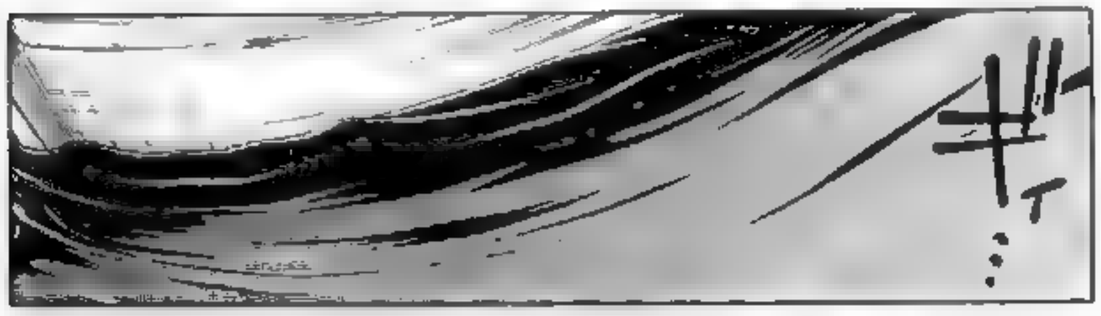

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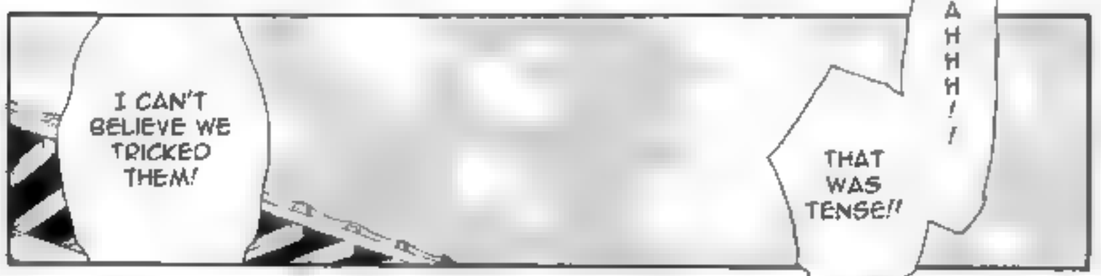

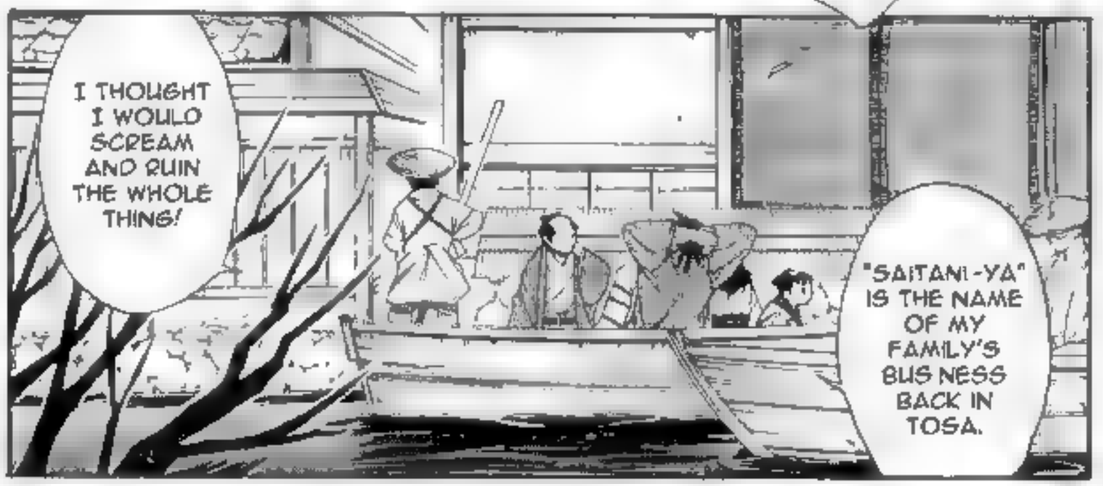

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OH CRAP, I TOTALLY FORGOT !!

AH !!

WHERE IS ICHIMURA RUNNING OFF TO NOW?

...

BUT THERE ARE STILL THIRTEEN LEFT TO GO!

AH!

I'VE GOT WORK, I'VE GOT WORK !!

WHERE'S HIJIKATA !?

I WANT TO COME BACK HERE AND SET THINGS RIGHT AS SOON AS I CAN

AS SOON AS THIS ALLIANCE IS DONE..

ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 21ST, IN THE SECOND YEAR OF KEIOU (1866)

SATSUMA AND CHOUSHUU UNITED IN A MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH SIX PROVISIONS.

THE SATSUMA -CHOUSHUU ALLIANCE WOULD BE THE TURNING POINT IN THE WAR AGAINST THE SHOGUNATE

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WELL ?
HOW MANY DID YOU BEAT TODAY ?
UM ...
TCH.
SO YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO BEAT 50 PEOPLE, THEN.. ?
I SEE.
WELL THEN..
ABOUT SEVEN
.....
... LET'S SEE ...
HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YOU FIGHT IN ALL?
HUFF
HUFF
WAAH !!
"HIDE FLEETING SORROW.." NO, NOT "HIDE,", THAT'S NO GOOD.
"RED MAPLE LEAVES . . ."
ICHI-MURA
OW ..
OW...!!
ぱーん
I DIDN'T SPILL THE TEA !!!
YOU DIDN'T SPILL THE TEA!? BUT YOU FELL FLAT ON YOUR FACE!!
BUT ...
I... I... I'M SORRY !!
BECAUSE OF YOU.. MY POETIC MASTER-PIECE WAS RUINED

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CHAPTER 19
HONOR

FORTY
!!

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MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. THE LOOK IN HIS EYES HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED!! SHINPACHI?
BUT, THAT'S
HE'S REALLY FAST!!
TET-CHAN PROVED HIMSELF TO YOU GUYS AT IKEDA -YA!

IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.
STUPID.
«YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART..
?
OH YEAH? THEN HOW COME HE STILL DOESN'T FIGHT ON THE LEVEL OF A SHINSENGUMI SOLDIER?

HIJIKATA-SAN LIKES TO SAY THAT "IF SOMEBODY'S NOT TRYING TO KICK YOU, THROW DIRT IN YOUR EYES, OR TRIP YOU UP, IT'S NOT A REAL BATTLE."
BUT IN A SUDDEN ATTACK OUTDOORS, HE'LL NEVER LOSE.
IN A MATCH WHERE HE HAS TO WORRY ABOUT PROPER FORM AND STYLE, HE'S NOT SO GOOD
HE EXCELS IN REAL COMBAT.
TET-CHAN IS JUST LIKE HIJIKATA -SAN.

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WAAAAAAH!!?
WHAT'S THIS!? SO MANY NEW STUDENTS!?
NO, ME!!
OKITA-SENSEI!!
SENSEI!! PLEASE TRAIN WITH ME TOO!!
NO, WITH ME!!
WELL, I GUESS OKITA SOUJI IS GOING TO BE TAKING ON SOME NEW STUDENTS!
AND THERE WILL BE SOME MORE BRUISES!!
HM

I AM NOT BEATEN UP!
I JUST HAVE A LITTLE ACHE IN MY LEGS AND BACK!
YOU'RE ALL BEATEN UP AGAIN TODAY LET ME TAKE A LOOK
SO MUCH THAT YOU COME WHINING TO ME? MAYBE I SHOULD CUT YOU OPEN
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE FUNNY
THAT'S NOT FUNNY!!!
YOU ARE SOO UN-FUNNY!!!
HOW ABOUT THAT TIME WHEN YOU CUT MIMURA OPEN!?
YOU WERE ALL "MUHA HAHAHA !!!"
IT WAS A SURGICAL PROCEDURE HE HAD APPENDICITIS
WELL? CAN I AT LEAST RECORD YOUR HEIGHT?

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YOU MIGHT BE GETTING BIG, BUT YOU'RE STILL A BRAT.

?

THAT'S IT.

ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

HUH? ..OH!

OH, HAS THAT NERVOUS WRECK CALMED DOWN AT ALL?

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, OR YOU WON'T GROW STRONG

HOW CAN HE BE SO DISRE-SPECTFUL !?

YOU'VE BEEN HANGING AROUND HERE FOR YOUR ENTIRE LUNCH BREAK! THIS PLACE STINKS LIKE MEDICINE!

YOU .

YOU'D THINK HE WAS HIS MOTHER, NOT HIS BROTHER ...

!?

TETSUUU!!!

YOU MEAN TATSU -NII

HMMM ..

"GROW-ING PAINS ..?"

PERHAPS YOU JUST HAVE GROWING PAINS, THEN

DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE NOT SICK

YES!! YOU'RE GONNA BE SHOCKED!!

I'VE GROWN AT LEAST 3 SUN (1 SUN = ABOUT 3CM)

SHUT UP!!

I DON'T CARE IF IT HURTS, THEN!!

SO THE BRAT'S GROWING UP QUICK, HUH?

SO YOUR BONES AND MUSCLES ACHE.

BASICALLY, YOU'RE GROWING SO FAST THAT YOUR BODY CAN'T KEEP UP.

I'LL EXPLAIN AS BEST I CAN.

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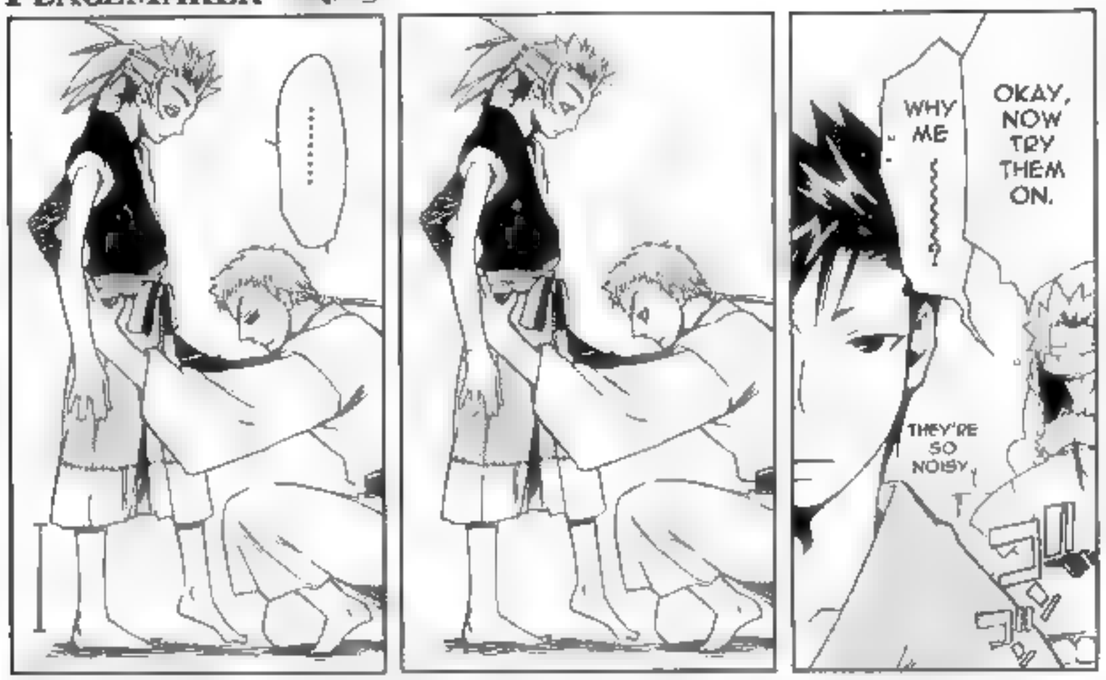
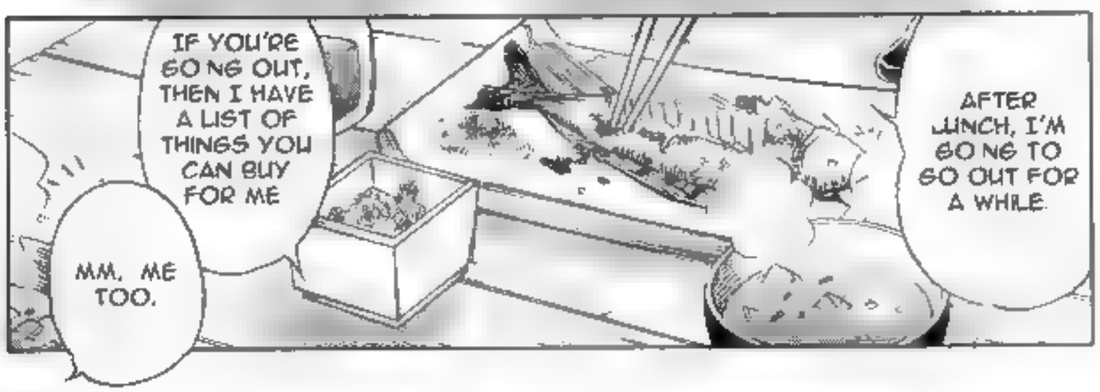


..YOUTH CAN BE SO CRUEL..
COME ON, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY BUT INSTEAD YOU'RE IN TEARS!
HE'S THROWING FASTER AND FASTER
... HE GOT BIGGER ...!!



YOU HYPOCRITE, YOU SHOULDN'T TALK
DO YOU WANT TO BE A FREAK LIKE HIM?
IF YOU KEEP YOURSELF SHUT UP IN A TINY ROOM, YOU'LL END UP LIKE THAT SNEAKY PINCUSH ON!
STAYS INDOORS MORE THAN ANYONE

AND LOOK! I EVEN BOUGHT YOU THE KIND OF FISH YOU LIKE
WHAT!? WHAT IS WITH THAT CRAPPY PATCHWORK SEWING!?
IT'S AN ABSOLUTE RULE THAT YOU SHOULD TREAT YOUR POSSESS-IONS AS IF THEY WERE EXPENSIVE.
YOU SHOULD WEAR CLOTHES AS LONG AS YOU CAN, OR IT'S WASTEFUL!
HUH? WHY WOULD YOU BOTHER FIXING THOSE OLD HAKAMA?
IDIOT! AUTUMN IS COMING, SO YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AROUND BARE-LEGGED!

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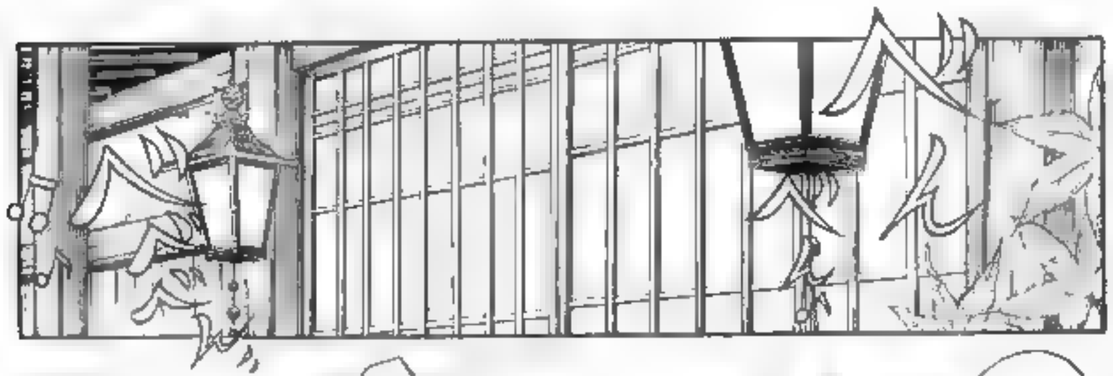
WELL, IF HE HAS THOSE MANLY URGES, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU'RE AN UNCLE.
HE'S GROWING UP TOO FAST... HE WANTS TO EXPERIENCE ADULT THINGS. BUT I HAVE A DUTY TO OUR PARENTS... I'LL HAVE TO CASTRATE HIM...
THAT WOULD BE A JOKE IF ANYBODY BUT YOU SAID IT...
THAT GUY IS REALLY CREEPY
LOOK ME IN THE EYE WHEN YOU TELL BAD JOKES

UM NOTHING IMPORTANT.
WHAT A WEIRD SHOPPING LIST
TO MAKE MEDICINE, WHAT ELSE?
WHAT DO YOU NEED THIS STUFF FOR?
.....
WELL, WHATEVER
I CAN JUST PICK THIS STUFF UP AT THE OGURA-YA, RIGHT?



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AWW, CHILL OUT IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL.
WHAT AN IDIOT!!
O-HANA.
IT TAKES YOU LONGER THAN IT DOES FOR A WOMAN TO GET READY - WERE YOU F'XING YOUR HAIR AND MAKEUP!?

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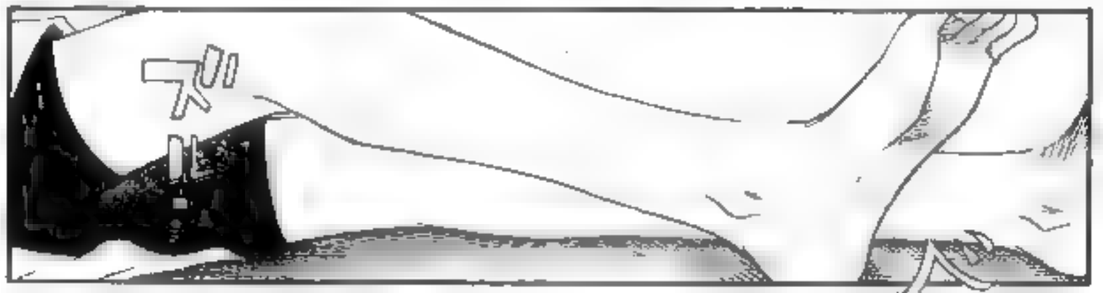
AH, I SWEAR YOU COME OVER HERE JUST TO PLAY AROUND.
?
SURE, YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TREAT THAT GIRL RIGHT.
?
I CAN JUST WAIT QUIETLY UNTIL SHE'S DONE
I LIKE LISTENING TO SAYA PLAY SHAMISEN.
.....



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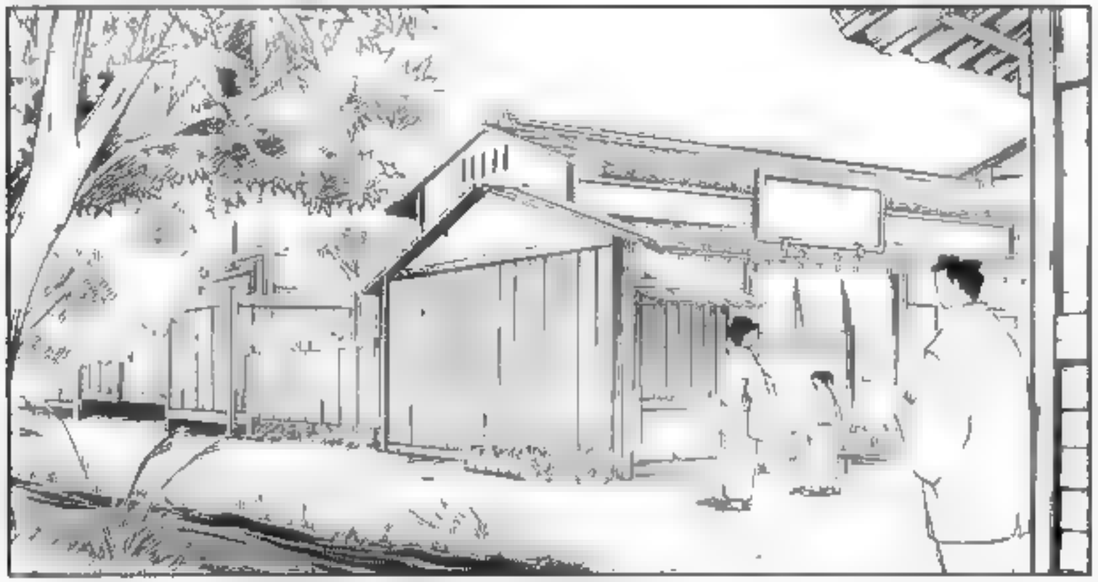

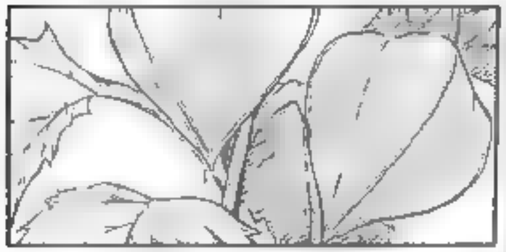

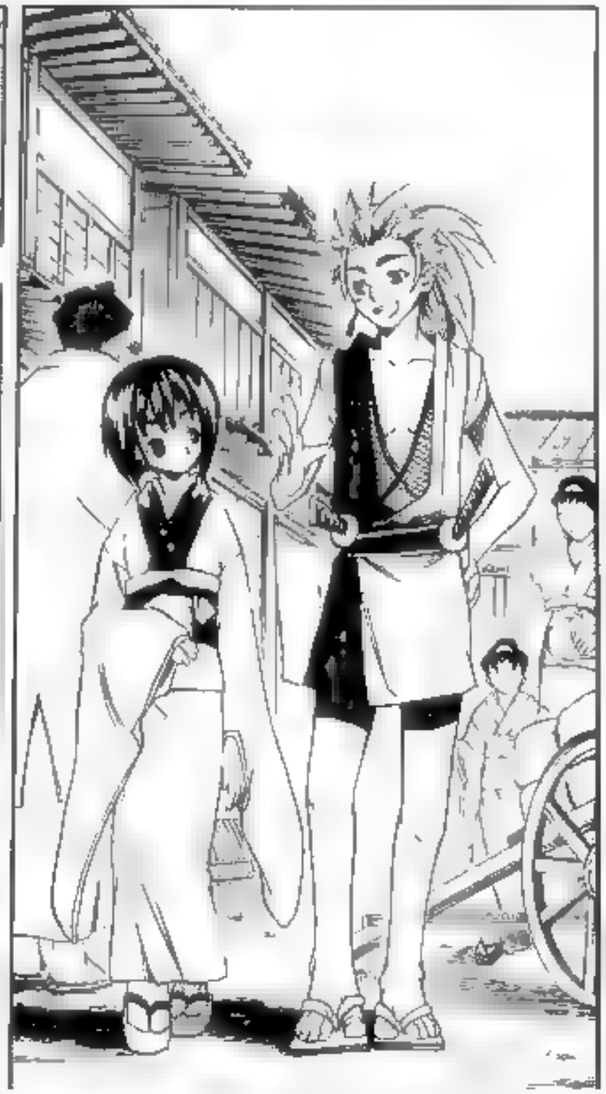

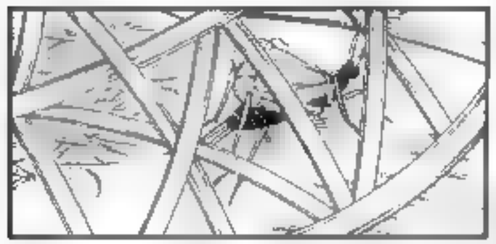

YOU CLUELESS IDIOT!!
WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO SPEND THE NIGHT AWAY FROM HEAD-QUARTERS!
THE PUNISHMENT IS SEPPUKU
AH, I CAN'T.
AND IF YOU NEED A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT, YOU CAN ALWAYS STAY HERE!

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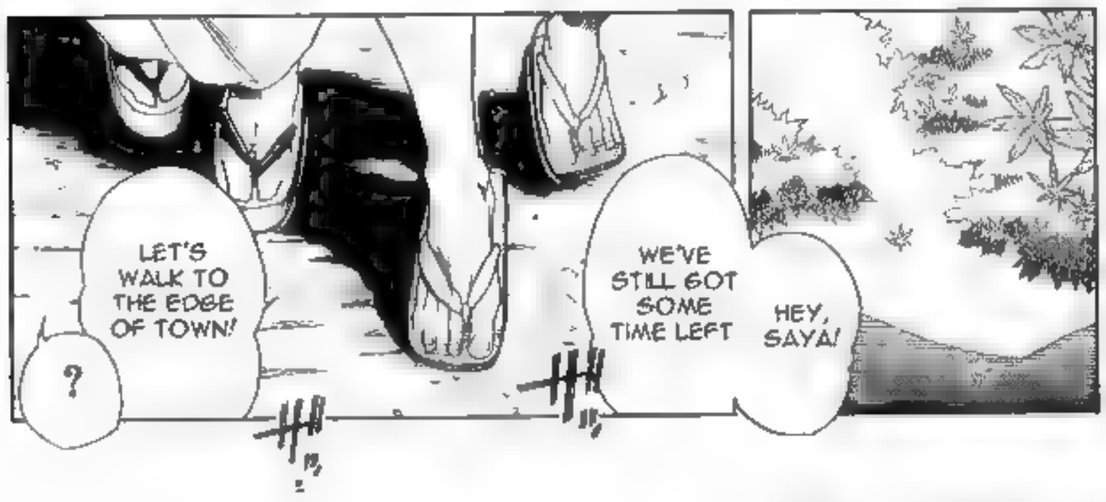
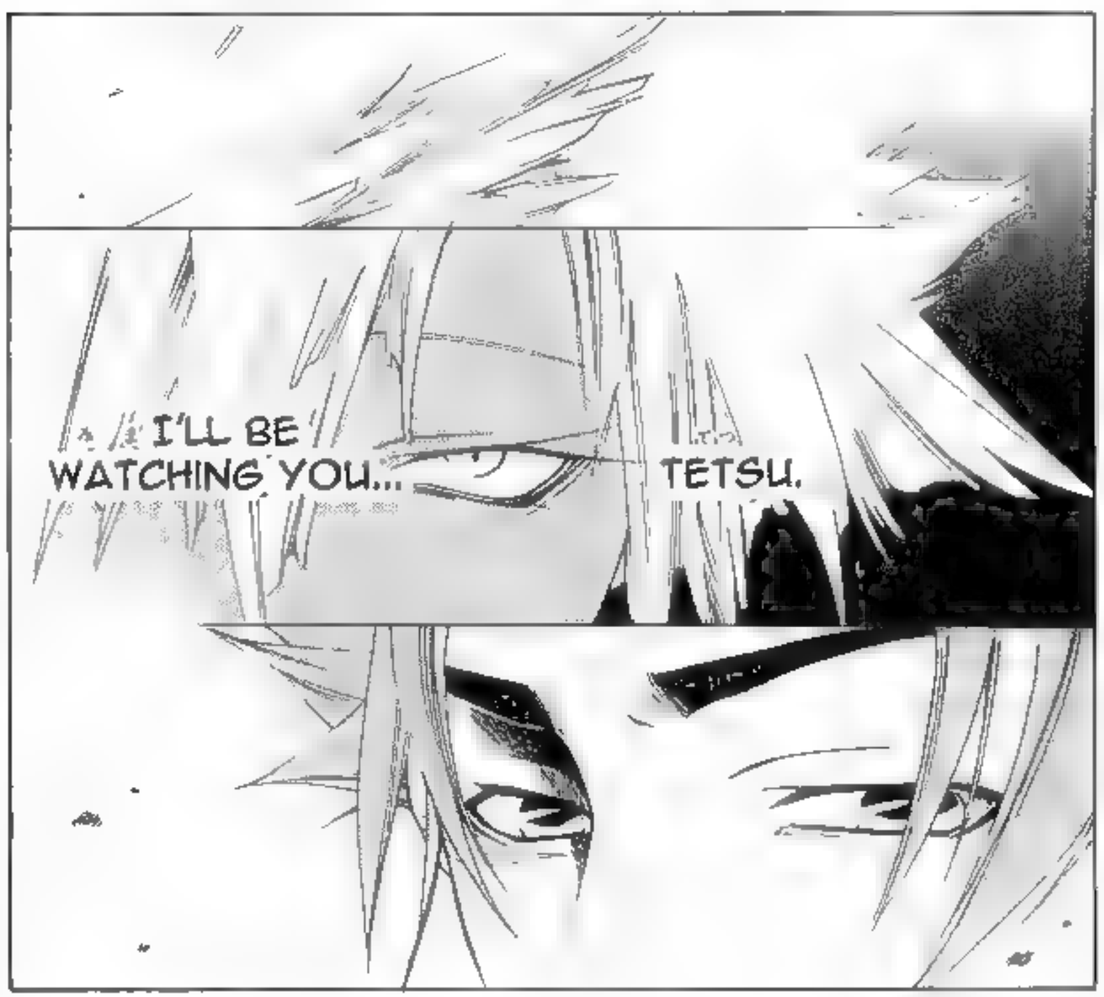
I WONDER WHAT SUZU THINKS OF ME.





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GOD DOESN'T COME HERE.
IS A HOUSE OF PLEA-SURE ...
BUT THIS PLACE ...
O-HANA ...
O-HANA.
I'VE JUST BEEN PUTTING THE DECISION OFF EVERY DAY S NCE I CAME TO SHIMABARA.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
DON'T WORRY, O-KYO-NEE-SAN.

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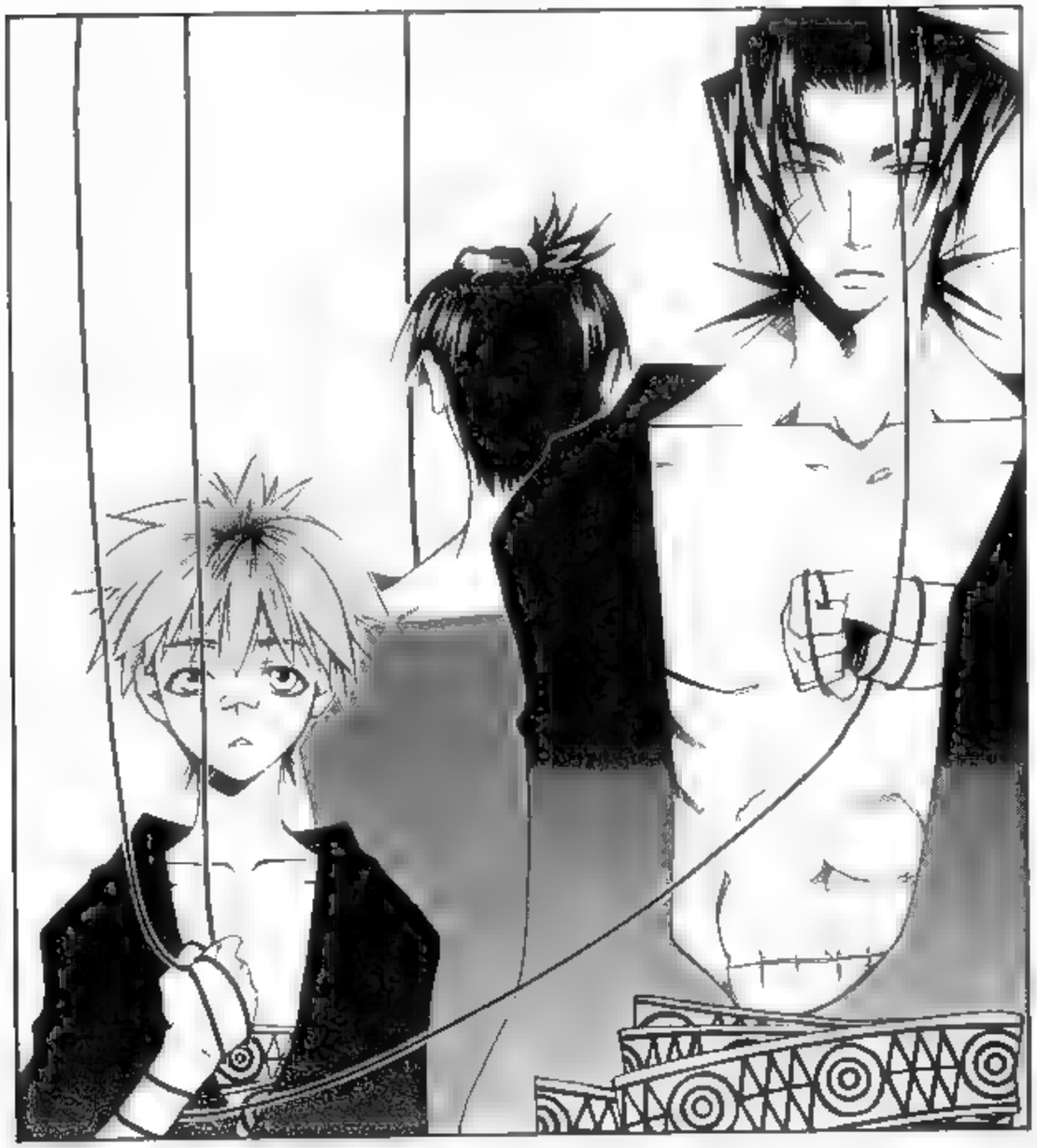

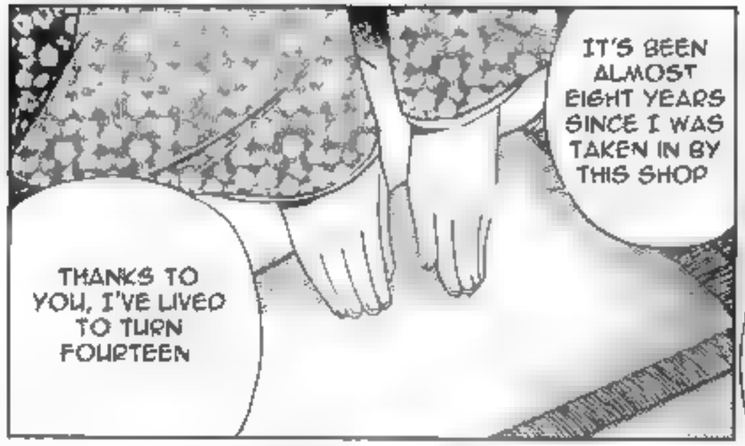

CHAPTER 20

CHOICE

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SO I GUESS THIS IS ANOTHER GOODBYE.
.....
C'MON, MAN ..
I'VE ALREADY OBTAINED OFFICIAL PERMISSION.
THE PUNISHMENT IS SEPPUKU - YOU WANNA DIE THAT BADLY? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
.....
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

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...
WE'RE NOT EVEN LEAVING KYOTO.
"JUST SEPA-RAT-ING!?"
WE'RE NOT REBELLING AGAINST THE SHINSENGUM, OR ANYTHING, WE'RE JUST SEPARAT.NG.
IT'S NOT WORTH GETTING ALL WORKED UP ABOUT.
GO-JOU ...
WE'RE BEING STATIONED AT THE ZENRITSU TEMPLE IN GOJOU.
BUT WHEN WIL- YOU COME HOME? WHAT WILL YOU EAT? WHERE WILL YOU SLEEP?
I MEAN... IT'S KIND OF LIKE A BUS NESS TRIP, RIGHT?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!? I MEAN, YOU'RE ONE OF US OLD-TIMERS FROM SHIEIKAN, RIGHT!?
YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE!!
COME ON, HARADA ..
WHAT!?
IT WAS MY IDEA.
DAMN IT!! WHO ORDERED YOU TO DO SOMETHING SO DUMB!?
WAS IT KONDOU !? HIJIKATA !?

KONDOU-SAN AND HIJIKATA-SAN AGREEDED WITH NO PROTEST.
ITOU-SAN WAS SPECIALLY APPOINTED TO FORM THE GORYOUEJI
HE'LL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE MAGISTRATE, TODA YAMATONOKAMI -SAN.
SINCE ITOU-SAN HAS SUCH OFFICIAL BACKING, HE'S BEING ALLOWED TO BREAK FROM THE SHINSENGUMI

ITOU AND HIS GUYS ARE UP TO NO GOOD!!
ARE YOU INSANE!?
WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU GO WITH THEM!?
BE QUIET, HARADA.
WHY DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THE SHINSEN-GUMI!?
DON'T MAKE CRAZY DECISIONS LIKE THIS!!

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I'M NOT GONNA TRY TO STOP YOU, 'KAY?

BUT

YEAH...

BUT THE PEOPLE I'M GOING WITH ARE MY FRIENDS TOO

HE SUKE

I JUST GOTTA ASK, HOW MANY DAYS DID YOU REALLY TAKE TO THINK ABOUT THIS?

SHIN-PATT-SAN ..

IS THERE SOME REASON WHY I SHOULD HANG AROUND W TH YOU TWO ALL THE TIME?

I STUDY HOKUSHIN ITTOU RYUU SWORD STYLE TOO, SO I'M RIGHT AT HOME IN ITOU'S GROUP

AND THE WORK ISN'T EXACTLY DEATH-DEFYING - WE'RE ASSIGNED TO GUARDING THE IMPERIAL TOMBS IT MIGHT EVEN BE A RELAXING CHANGE OF PACE

. SO THAT'S IT?

AREN'T WE FRIENDS !?

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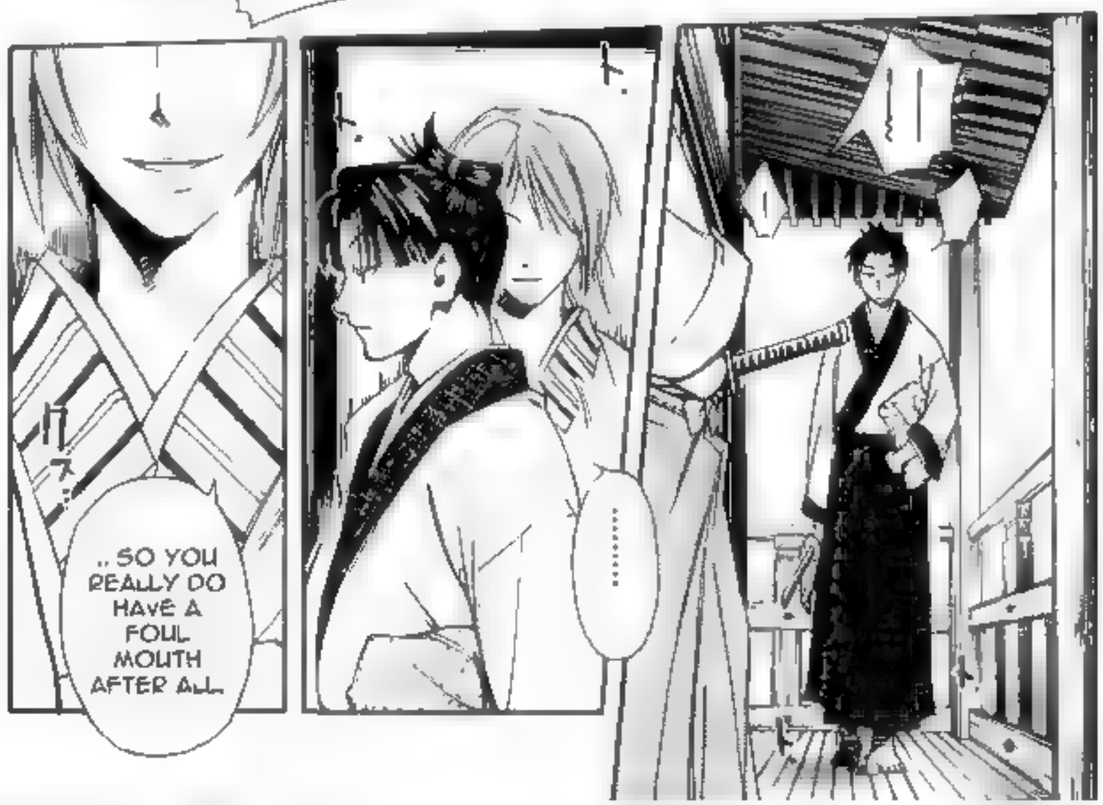
YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF TOO.
WHAT, WERE YOU SPYING ON ME?
HAHA, NOT AT ALL.
ﾌｯ…
YOU'VE NEVER PUSHED THEM AWAY UNTIL NOW, HAVE YOU?
AHH, BUT IT ALL SEEMED A LITTLE FORCED
YOU KNOW?



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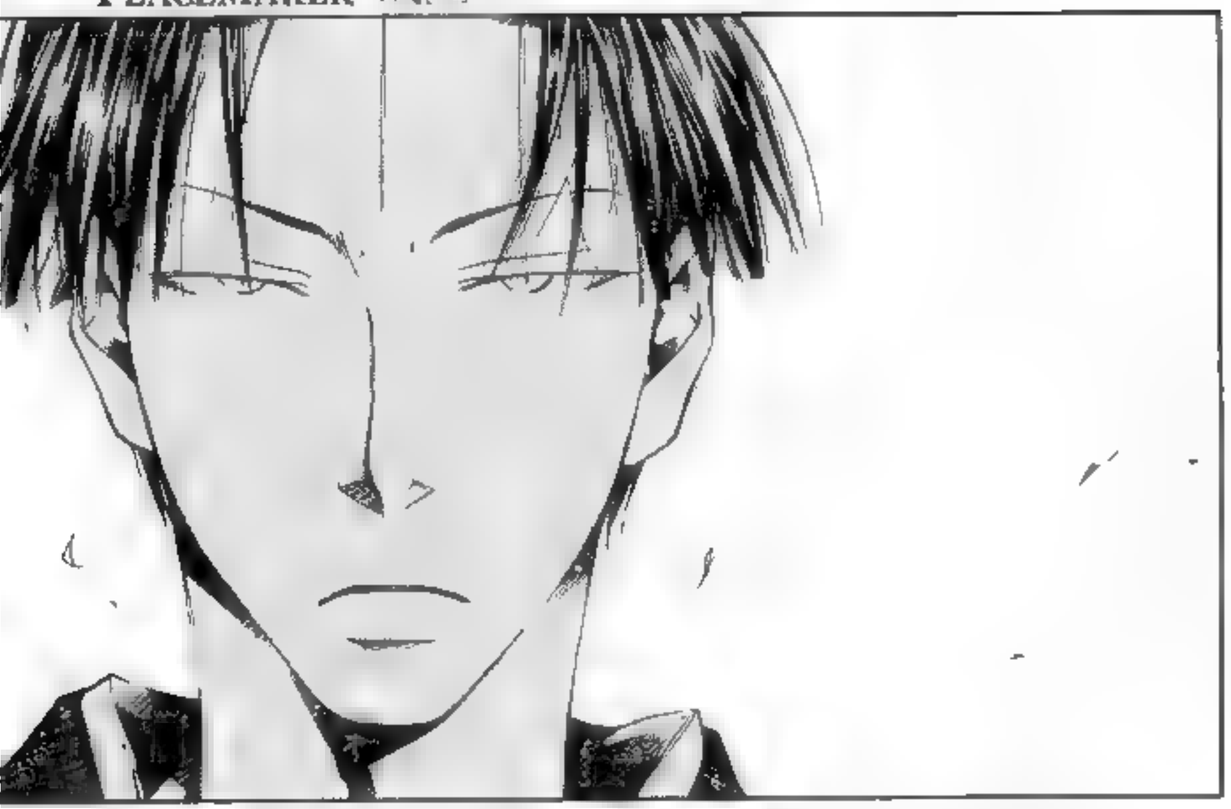
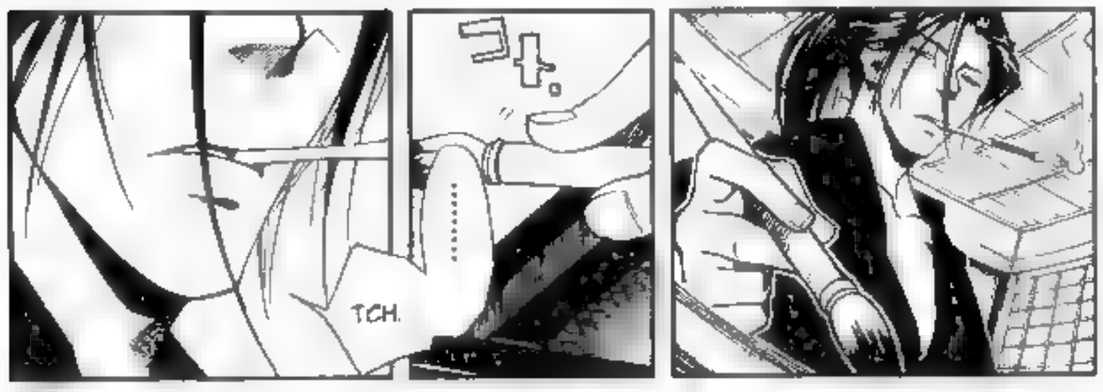


I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANYMORE...



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WHY CAN'T ANYBODY SEE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?

YOU SAY YOU'RE CHOOSING YOUR OWN PATH OR WHATEVER, BUT YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE SHINSENGUMI NOW?

DAMN IT!

.. THERE IS SO MUCH THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

WHATEVER. I GUESS YOU WON'T REGRET LEAVING THE BAD STUFF BEHIND..

.. BUT THAT'S ALL STUFF WE'RE "NOT SUPPOSED TO TALK ABOUT," RIGHT?

IT'S ALL SELF-INTER-EST

HEHE

RIGHT NOW..

WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE SOME HARD CHOICES.

YES. FROM NOW ON, WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.

"CHOICES"?

...YOU'RE LEAVING US...

AND ALL YOU CAN TALK ABOUT IS THIS DESTINY CRAP..?

PEOPLE ARE DECIDING WHERE THEY WANT TO GO IN THEIR LIVES.

THEY HAVE TO MAKE THE CHOICE

AND FIND THEIR OWN WAY..

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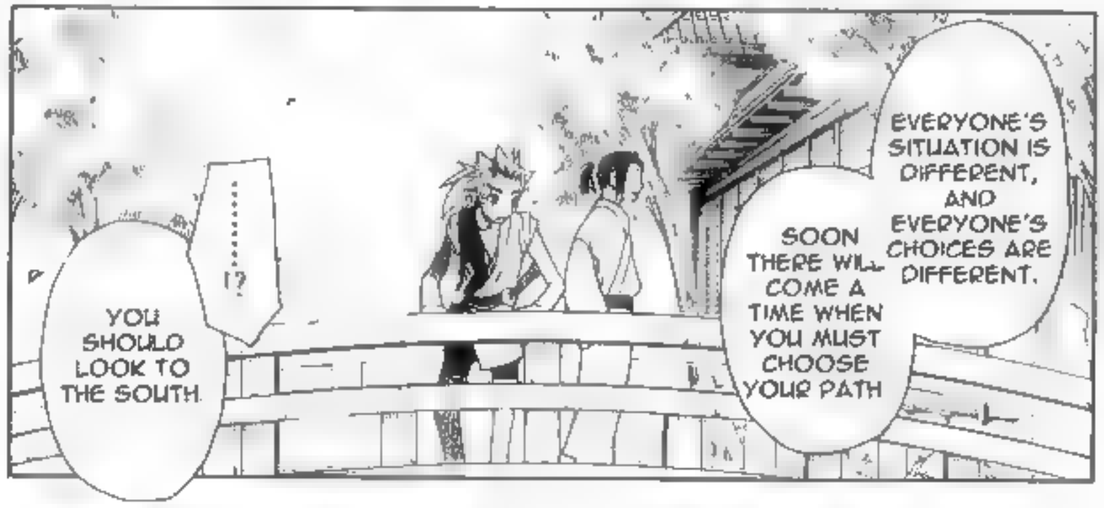
IT REALLY IS YOU!
BUT I, RYOUMA-SAMA, THE MAN OF THE PEOPLE, WILL HEED NOT THOSE WHO TRY TO ARREST ME!
THAT SAITOU NEVER CHANGES, HE'S ALWAYS WEIRD!


.....!?
YOU SHOULD LOOK TO THE SOUTH.
SOON THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN YOU MUST CHOOSE YOUR PATH
EVERYONE'S SITUATION IS DIFFERENT, AND EVERYONE'S CHOICES ARE DIFFERENT.

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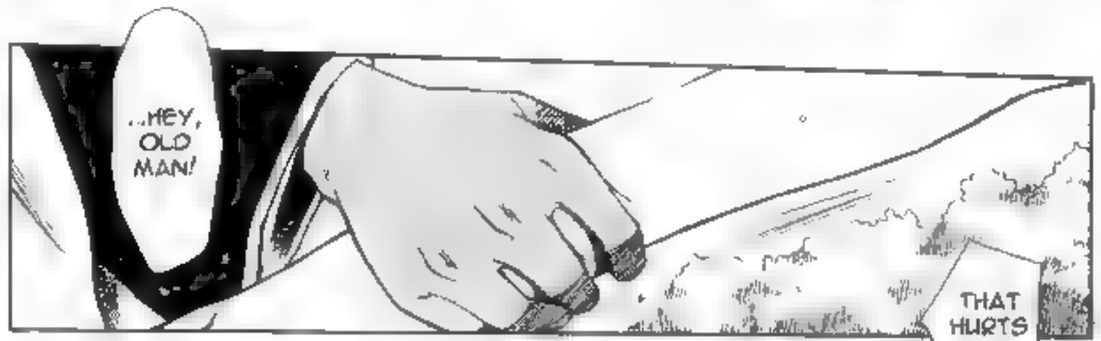
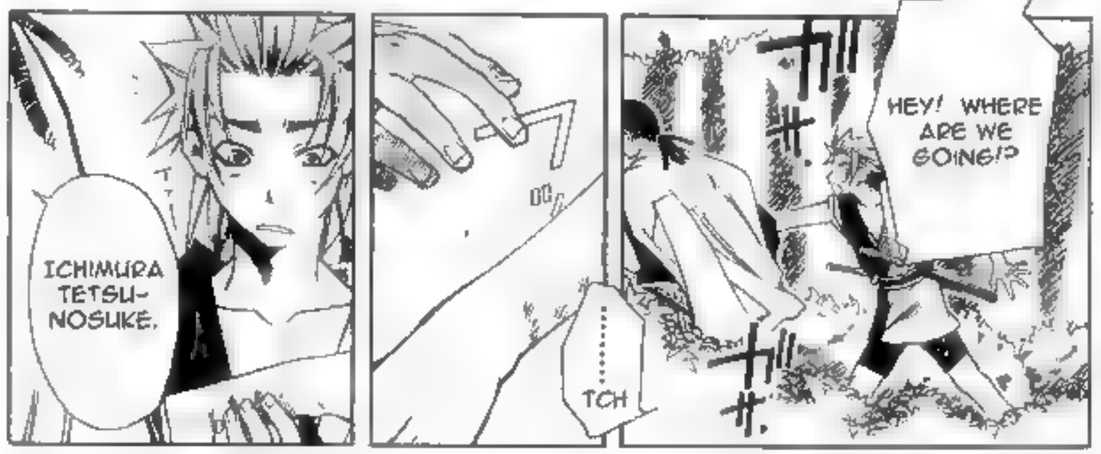
ME AND NAKAOKA BROUGHT SAIGOU-SAN AND KATSURA-SAN TOGETHER AND FORMED THE SATSUMA-CHOUSHUU ALLIANCE.
NOW, THE WESTERN REGIONS ARE UNITED IN SUPPORTING THE EMPEROR AND CAN MOVE AS ONE TO TOPPLE THE SHOGUNATE.





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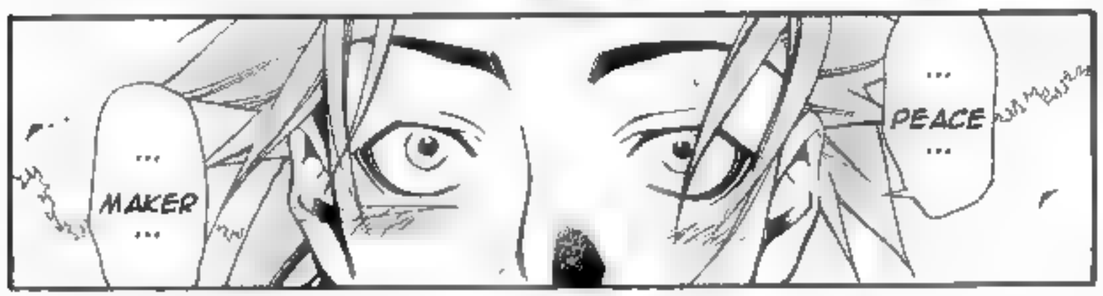
QUIT THE SHINSENGUMI AND COME WITH ME.
FOR YOU AND YOUR BROTHER TO DIE MEANINGLESSLY FOR A PATHETIC GOVERNMENT.. IT JUST ISN'T RIGHT
WH , WHAT, OLD MAN. ?

BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO HAVE VISION...
PEOPLE LIKE YOU.. PEOPLE WHO SEE A DIFFERENT WORLD.
THE WORLD IS CRYING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THIS DYING COUNTRY.



IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF "WHEN" THE SHOGUNATE IS ALREADY ON THE VERGE OF FALLING APART
THERE'S A MAN IN MY HOME PROVINCE OF TOSA, YAMAUCHI YODOU-KOU, WHO FEELS THE SAME WAY, AND HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE

YOUR COMMANDING OFFICERS KNOW THEY'VE ALREADY LOST, BUT THEY CAN'T BACK DOWN.
WHEN PEOPLE KNOW THEY'RE GOING TO DIE, THEY DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO KEEP THEMSELVES ALIVE.

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HE WAS YOUR FATHER.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS COUNTRY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT A PEACE MAKER IS

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING

I DON'T ..

I..

TEACH ME ALL THE THINGS I DON'T KNOW

SO I CAN MAKE MY CHOICE.

I JUST DON'T KNOW...

I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD INVOLVE YOU IN ALL THIS ..

HONE-STLY ..

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS YOU COULD DO...

BECAUSE YOU'RE RYUU-NOSUKE'S SONS..

.BUT IF YOU STAY HERE

YOU'LL DIE.

TEACH ME

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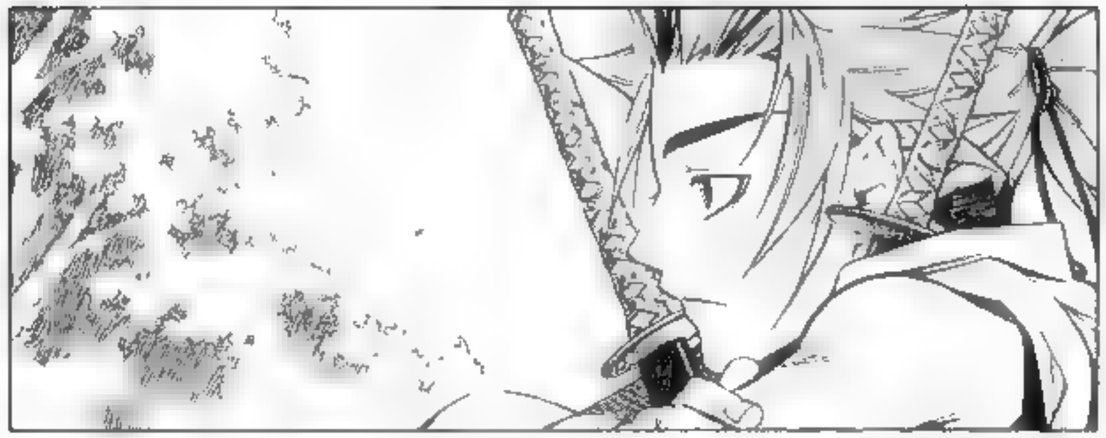
TELL ME ONE MORE THING.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO, YOU COULD COME WITH ME AND GET SOUVENIERS FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD.



IT'S JUST SO BIG.
WOW
EVEN THOUGH HE WAS RELYING ON SHOGUNATE SUPPORT AT THE TIME...
ALRIGHT. YOUR FATHER TRAVELLED TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY

IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMEPLACE TO COME HOME TO.
DRAGON BOY IS THE ONLY FAMILY YOU'VE GOT IN THIS WORLD.
WHEN YOU GO OUT INTO THE WORLD, YOU WON'T HAVE THE COMFORTS OF YOUR HOME COUNTRY.
MAYBE HE JUST WANTS YOU TO HAVE A SAFE, QUIET
BUT WHY DIDN'T TATSU-NII EVER TELL ME?

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DESERVES MORE THAN A FEW SIMPLE WORDS...

.....

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT REALLY MEANS.

NEXT TIME WE MEET ...

.....

WHAT'S A "PEACE MAKER?"

"MAKER" MEANS "TSUKURI HITO"

"PEACE" MEANS "HEIWA"

SOMEONE ... WHO MAKES PEACE ...

SOME-ONE

WHO MAKES PEACE..

THAT MAN ...

WELL, THAT'S NOT THE REAL DEFINITION.

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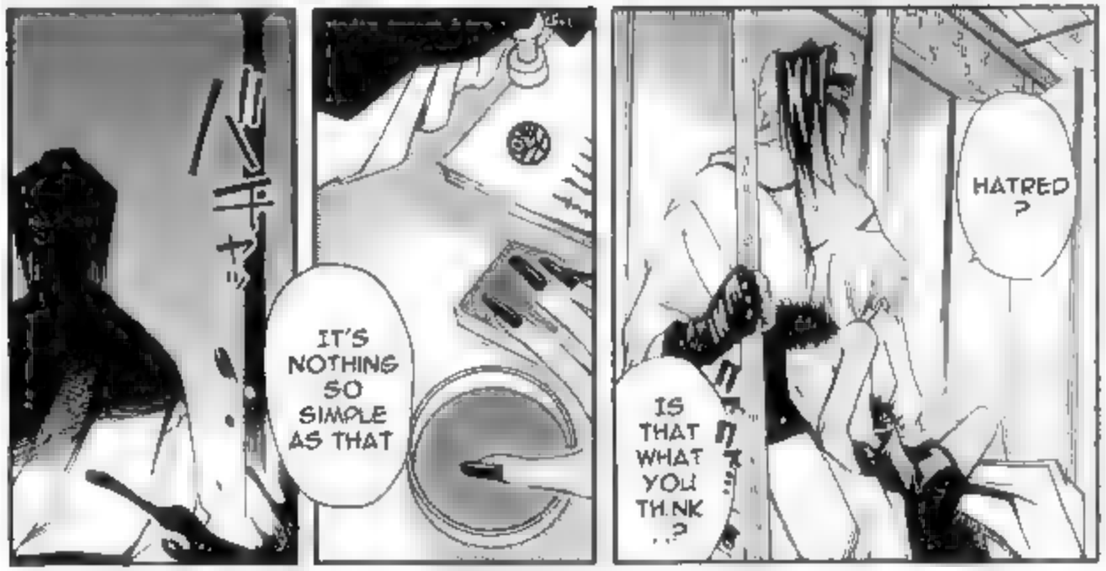
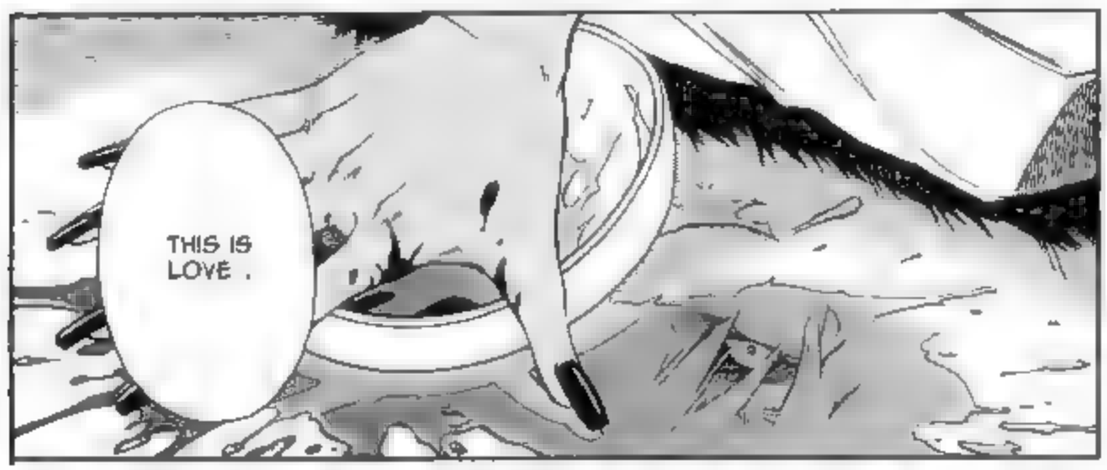
CHAPTER 21
THE SEA

OH..
NYA
YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A GOOD WORKER I'LL GIVE YOU A NICE PRESENT

.....
DON'T THINK I'M KEEPING YOU AROUND BECAUSE I LIKE YOU
WELL? I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD ANY WORTHWHILE INFORMATION FROM YOU.

YOU'RE A VERY STRANGE MAN.


IT'S NOTHING SO SIMPLE AS THAT
HATRED ?
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK ..?


THIS IS LOVE .

"HUFF"
"HUFF"

COME HERE..
YOU NEVER HAVE ANY FUN, DO YOU?
BUT I PITY YOU.

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN?

YOU ARE A STRANGE MAN
WHO COULD YOU POSSIBLY HATE SO MUCH THAT YOU WOULD GO TO THESE EXTREMES...?
I WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU...

IF SAKAMOTO -SENSEI DOESN'T COME BACK, WHAT HAPPENS TO US?
SO WHAT? WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
THE SHOGUNATE KNOWS THAT WE INTEND TO RE-INSTATE IMPERIAL RULE ..
.....Ah?

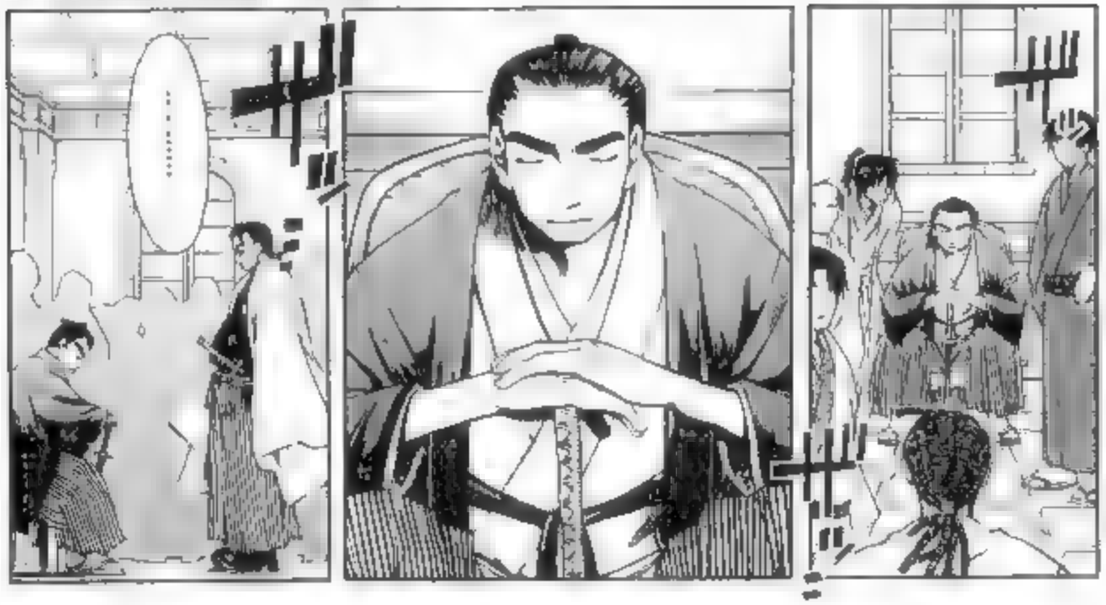
DOESN'T THAT ALL SOUND TOO EASY?
...
ISN'T THE SHOGUNATE IN NEED OF A REAL LEADER?
THEN WE'LL STICK TO THE RESTOR-ATIONS PLANS THAT HE AND NAGAOKA CAME UP WITH.

AH, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.
WHAT'S WRONG, TETSU-NOSUKE?

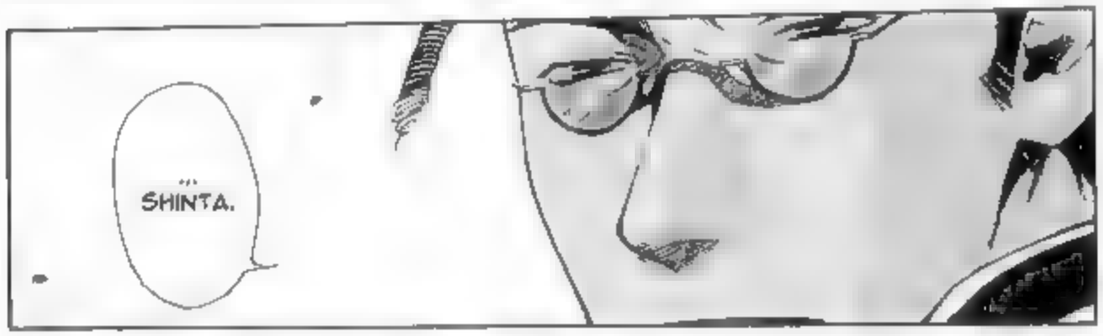
SAKAMOTO-SENSEI HAS RETURNED.

I'M SORRY !!
I'M SO LATE!!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING, UMANOSUKE !?

UNLESS HE RAN INTO AN ASSASSIN ALOGN THE WAY..
DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE HE'S FINE...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CAPTAIN !?
NO WAY! THE CAPTAIN WOULDN'T LET SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN!!
THAT WAS THE PLAN, BUT HE HASN'T SHOWED YET.
SHOU-LDN'T HE BE HERE !?
I'VE HEARD HE'S SO FAMOUS THAT HE CAN'T EVEN GO NEAR HIS HOMETOWN.
YOU CAN'T JUST BE SO NONCHALANT. EVERYONE IN JAPAN HAS HEARD OF SAKAMOTO RYOUMA BY NOW.
IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ALL OF US IN THE KAIENTAI!?
AHHHHAA
CAPTAIN!
JUST A SEC
YES.
SHIRAMINE -SAN, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT... HAVE YOU ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A PESSIMIST?



RYOUMA


SHINTA.

GULP

CAP-TAIN!
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, CAPTAIN!
CAPTAIN SAKA-MOTO!!
CAP-TAIN!!
CAPTAIN!!
CAPTAIN, YOU'RE ALRIGHT ...!!

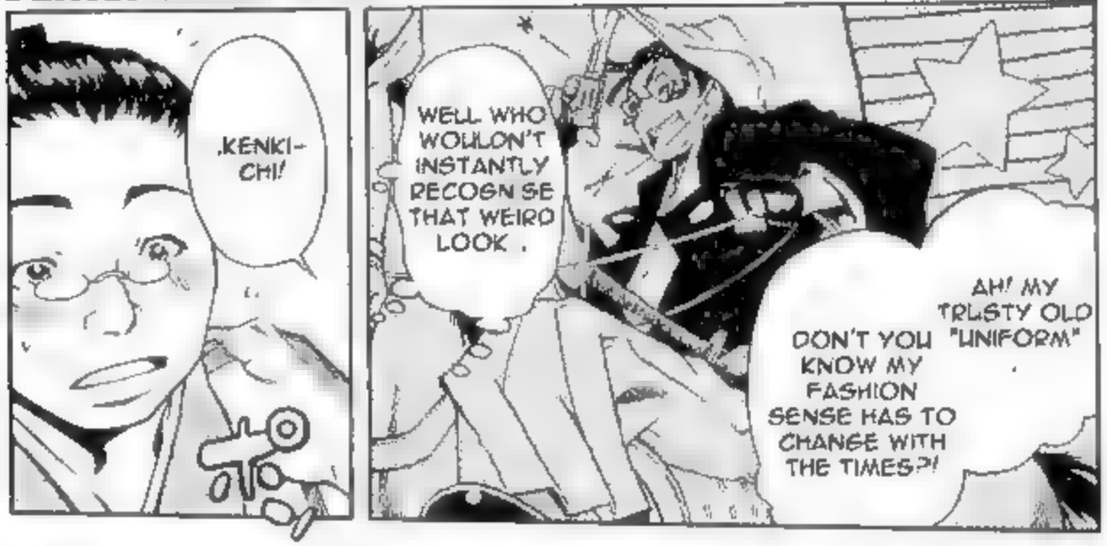
にっ

キラ
キラ
キラ
.....!

IT'S YOU!!
IT'S REALLY YOU!!

RYOUMA'S TALKING ABOUT IMPERIAL RESTORATION - THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE HAD RULED JAPAN SINCE IEYASU'S TIME, OVER 250 YEARS, SO IMPERIAL RESTORATION MEANS GIVING MILITARY POWER BACK TO THE EMPEROR AND THE IMPERIAL COURT.
BAN ZAI!!
BAN-ZAI!!
THAT'S OUR CAPTAIN!!
YOU'RE THE BEST, CAPTAIN!!
BAN-ZAI!!
LET'S PUT THE EMPEROR BACK ON THE THRONE WHERE HE BELONGS!!
COME ON, LET'S DO IT!!

OH YEAH!!
OHHH YES.
OH...
OH.....?


KENKI-CHI!
WELL WHO WOULDN'T INSTANTLY RECOGNISE THAT WEIRD LOOK.
AH! MY TRUSTY OLD "UNIFORM"
DON'T YOU KNOW MY FASHION SENSE HAS TO CHANGE WITH THE TIMES?!

I JUST WANTED TO HELP, THAT'S ALL..
BUT SIR!
I OUGHTA REWARD YOU FOR ALL THE TROUBLE YOU'VE GONE I SURE HAVE THROUGH! MISSED HAVING SMART GUYS LIKE YOU AT KATSU-SAN AROUND.

WELL, YOU KNOW, THINGS HAPPENED AND I GOT DELAYED..
SIGH
CAPTAIN!
..YOU CERTAINLY TOOK YOUR TIME COMING BACK FROM KYOTO.
AFTER ALL YOU'VE PUT US THROUGH, NOW I'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO YOU
THE GREATEST REWARD FOR ME IS SEEING YOU SAFE AND SOUND! I WAS SO WORRIED..
THIS IS TOO MUCH.

BAN-ZAI!
NO MATTER WHAT, I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!!
OH COME ON, IT'S NOT JUST ME
WAAAAH
BAN-ZAI!
うおおお
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT!!

WE'VE GOT TO BE VERY, VERY QUIET
NO, SHINTA!
EVEN TOKUGAWA IS ONLY ONE MAN...
BRING ME SAKE!! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A PARTY!!

CHEER UP! I WANNA SEE HAPPY FACES!
WHAT IS IT, YOU GUYS? I'VE ONLY BEEN AWAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE
CAPTAIN!
CAPTAIN!
OKAY, SENSE!!
I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNISE YOU AT FIRST!!
BUT YOU'VE GOTTEN SO COOL!!

THE BATTLE IS NEARING, SO THIS IS A DRINK TO SEND US OFF

OKAY, GUYS, THIS SAKE ISN'T FOR CELEBRATING

"DEBO RYUUSHUN"? WHAT'S THAT?

IT MEANS "KAKUMEI"

WE WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE REVOLUTION UNSCATHED.

WEAKNESS IS JAPAN'S GREATEST ENEMY

SATSUMA AND CHOUSHUU MAY HAVE RALLIED TOGETHER BEHIND THE EMPEROR, BUT WE'RE GOING UP AGAINST 400,000 OF TOKUGAWA'S FORCES.

SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW... THE FUTURE OF JAPAN IS COMING!!

BECAUSE

EVEN IF WE'RE DOWN TO THE LAST MAN, YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE...!

AND THEN IMAGINE A SHINING DAWN OF A NEW JAPAN

JUST THINK OF THESE DARK, DIFFICULT TIMES...

HEY SARAH!

GUYS, I WANNA INTRODUCE YOU TO SARAH!

SO I HAD TO FIND MYSELF A NEW BODYGUARD.

YOU CAN DO IT, CAPTAIN! PLEASE GO ON WITHOUT ME, CAPTAIN.

AND I DID END UP HAVING TO GO ALL BY MYSELF.

BECAUSE SOMEBODY GOT A BELLYACHE *AGAIN* AND COULDN'T COME...

SHE WAS A NINJA SCOUTING AROUND KYOTO, AND NOW SHE'S WORKING FOR ME.

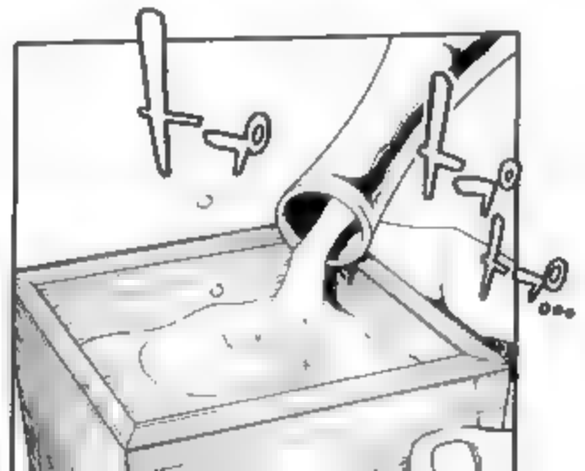
A GIRL!?

SHE'S PRETTY BUT SHE'S TOUGH AS NAILS - THAT'S MY KIND OF WOMAN!

THIS IS TOO MUCH...!

WOW, A WOMAN!!!

WHAT A CUTE BODYGUARD!



SARAH IS SO SHY!

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE A BUNCH OF MEN...

A GIRL! A GIRL! A GIRL!

'BUT, IF IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE'

THAT'S WHAT HE ALWAYS THOUGHT TOO'

'WOW SHE HAS SUCH PRETTY BLUE EYES!'

EVERYONE IS SO DEVOTED TO HIM...

CAP-TAIN!

CAP-TAIN!

LEAD US TO THE DAWN OF A NEW JAPAN!!

YES!! LEAD US, CAPTAIN !!

CAP-TAIN!

WE'RE WITH YOU!!

TO FREE-DOM!!

YES ...!!

TO A GREATER JAPAN!!

IT'S TIME FOR US, THE KAIENTAI, TO SET SAIL FOR THE NEW WORLD - THE NEW JAPAN!!

AND IT WON'T MATTER ANYMORE IF YOU'RE A SAMURAI OR A COMMON FARMER - SOCIAL CLASS WON'T MEAN ANYTHING IN THE FREE WORLD!!

BUT WE OF THE KAIENTAI ARE OPENING UP A NEW WORLD!!

YOU MIGHT SAY WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ACCOM-PLISH IS "TOO HARD".

JAPAN IS AN TINY ISLAND, AND WE'VE BEEN TOO CONFINED IN OUR THINKING!

AMERICA.. ENGLAND.. HOLLAND... WE'RE HEADED FOR THE "FREE WORLD"

I DON'T LOOK THAT BAD!
I'VE SEEN YOU LOOK WORSE.. HAVE A LITTLE PITY ON ME..
OKAY, OKAY.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE ENEGY TO GET P.SSED OFF.
ぱふっ
IT'S ALMOST YOUR BIRTHDAY SO I'LL GO EASY ON YOU!
AH-CHOO OO!!
HE HAS A COLD.
風邪。
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D BE TAKEN OUT BY A LITTLE CHILLY WEATHER.
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, WHY DON'T WE LEAVE EVERYTHING TO KATSU-SAN AND THE OTHERS AND TAKE SOME TIME OFF?
YEAH
AFTER ALL, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS WITHOUT A BREAK.
THAT MUST BE THE SHOPKEEPER BRINGING YOU SOME FUTONS.
WHAT THE HELL? I'M NOT YOUR DAMNED MAID.
ムス。
SARAH! COULD YOU BRING A FUTON? RYOUMA IS FALLING ASLEEP.

TO A NEW JAPAN!!
NOVEMBER, 1867 - KYOTO
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE GREAT WAR HERO...?
"WHINE"
GAH! WOULD YOU STOP THAT?!
AH-CHOO!

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND, SARAH?

?

RYOU.

YOUR GIRL!? YOU MEAN ORYOU?

HEY, SHINTA, THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT

MAYBE SO..

BUT WHAT IF THE GIRL WHO'S WAITING FOR ME CAME HERE IN-STEAD?

HEY, RYOUMA! MAYBE IF YOU WENT BACK TO TOSA, YOUR COLD WOULD GET BETTER?

SHINSEN.. DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN HANGING OUT THERE AGAIN!?

RED HAIR ENERGETIC.

THE RED-HEADED ONE IS REALLY A SPUNKY KID!

THERE'S THESE TWO BROTHERS IN THE SHINSEN-GUMI..

IT CAN'T BE ICHIMURA TETSUNOSU..

ОН
...
ОН
МУ
...

АН
...

AHH! YOU BAS-TARD!!

DO IT.

...!!

DAMN YOU...

BAS-TARDS ...

HE'S OUR ONLY HOPE!!

A-A-A-AH!

OH ...

OH NO ...

AAH!

OH NO ...

AAHH!

GAH!

RYOU

...MA..

YOU..

...!!

WHAT'S THIS?

"GR-AB"

I WAS WONDERING WHERE MY LITTLE FOR-EIGN FRIEND HAD RUN OFF TO..
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME

..KITA..MURA..

PERHAPS IT'S YOUR FILTHY BLOOD? YOU'RE REALLY A TROUBLE-SOME WOMAN. AHAHA-HAHA~~!!

...DA-MN YOU..

I'LL KILL YOU..

NEITHER OF YOU HAVE ANY LUCK, IT SEEMS... ONCE AGAIN, THE MAN YOU LOVE IS KILLED...

...PER-HAPS.

BEING LOVED BY YOU WAS BAD FOR THEIR HEALTH?

GAH!

SO I TRUST YOU WON'T GET IN MY WAY AGAIN?

...I'LL LET YOU LIVE.

YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE TETSU AWAY FROM ME.
YOU'RE A BAD MAN.

YOU'RE A BAD, BAD MAN
...
HE WOULD GO SOMEWHERE I CAN'T SEE HIM ANYMORE.
YOU WOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM ACROSS THE SEA... I DON'T LIKE THAT

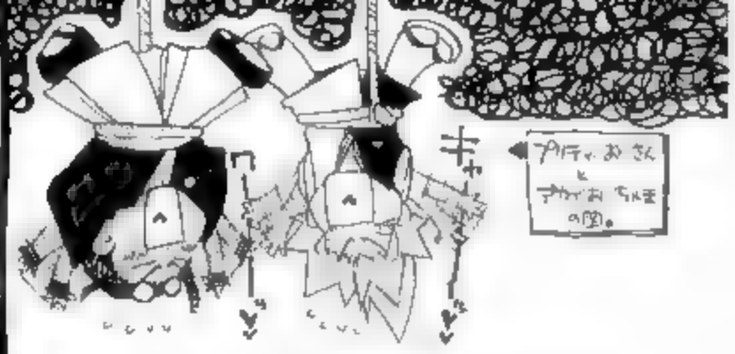
SAAAHH!!

BANG
BEFORE HE DIES, I WANT HIM TO LOSE EVERYTHING.
DON'T FINISH HIM YET.
GAH...
AH

SURPRISE
AMAZING...
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE...

JUST DUMP THE WOMAN SOME-PLACE OUTSIDE KYOTO.
SHE'S IN MY WAY

I'M SURE SAKA-MOTO RYOMA'S FOLLOW-ERS.
WILL BE OVER-WHELMED WITH RAGE.
AND WHO WILL THEY FIND AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME?
TETSU.



■それにしてももう2004年なんですねー。早いよ！　これじゃスグに30歳に突入だよ!?　ようやくこの歳にして『理想の自分』を見つけたっていうのに、改善事項の多さと時間の早さにちょっくら目まいの一つも起こしそうです。でも何とかがんばるの…。たどり着けるかどうかじゃなくて、目指し続ける事に意味があるんですよ!?（キャラが違い過ぎて、混乱ぎみの様子）。

■あと新しい仕事場ですが、ようやくカーテンが入りまして（遅いよ…）。少しずつ、少しずつ物が入っております。スタイリッシュかつダンディ〜なお部屋にしたいのですが、早くもダメっぽいです。好みが変わり過ぎてまとまりないのヨ…!!　恥ずかしくていつ公開できるのか、今の所サッパリです！

ダメダメじゃあ――〜…!!

・まァとにかく、次巻もがんばります!!

■これまたどエライお待たせしました第四巻であります。うわぁ…3巻から半年以上たってますネ、済みません…。さてカバーコメントにも書きましたが、今回は龍馬さんばっかり出ずっぱり（?）の大変グローバルな一冊になりましたヨ。新撰組隊士以外の幕末志士も何名か描かせていただきましたが、本気でなめきったキャラデザばっかで目も当てられません!!　心の中で『スイマセンスイマセン!!』とわびながら描いておりますので歴史ファンの方にはどうか許して頂きたい次第であります……。

だってキャラで笑わせて持ってかないと、歴史苦手人間には読むのもツライんだもんよ…。ここいらってサ。黒乃的にも、仕事で描いてなけりゃ『コレってこういう事だったんだ!?』と理解する事も無く人生終えていたであろう事柄が多数ありまして（今テスト受けてりゃもう少し良い点取れてたヨ…！）。

しんどいながらもプラスな一冊となりました。

未熟さ加減がよ〜く出た一冊でもありますけどね――…。

アワワ…。

PEACE MAKER.
KUROGANE. 4.
NANAE CHRONO.

MINACO-H
YUHCO-M
YUHCO-F
NOZOMI-T

MAKOTO-H

PEACE MAKER KUROGANE 4 Nanae Chrono

BLADE COMICS

PEACE MAKER 鐵 ④

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龍馬サンが出ずっぱりで、
ちょっとグローバルな感じの第四巻。…
大物人物を舐め切った描き方してしまいました★

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